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Defiant nurses stand united as NHS faces backlash for ignoring biological sex ruling

'WE WILL NEVER BE SILENCED FOR TELLING TRUTH'

Nurses, from left, Sandie Peggie, Bethany Hutchison, Jennifer Melle, Lisa Lockey

EXCLUSIVE

BY **GILES SHELDRICK** Chief Reporter

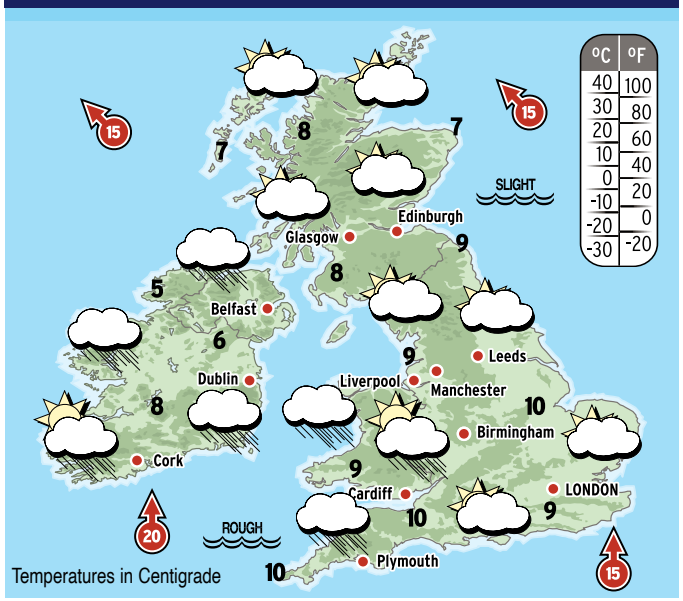
THESE defiant nurses are uniting and refusing to be silenced amid an NHS "witch-hunt" against women.

One may be struck off today for "misgendering" a paedophile patient, despite a court ruling a woman is defined by biological sex.

But Jennifer Melle said: "I will not be silenced for telling the truth. I never imagined

TURN TO PAGE 4

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Cloudy, breezy; evening rain

North West: Cloudy with brief showers early. Mostly cloudy later. Breezy, mild winds. High 10C (50F).

Northern Ireland: Wet with outbreaks of rain, possibly heavy later. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 8C (46F).

Wales: Wet spells, then brighter intervals later. Winds brisk, temperatures cool throughout. High 9C (48F).

Midlands: Cloudy with drizzle early on, turning to wetter conditions. Breezy with cool winds. High 9C (48F).

North East/Yorks: Early rain or showers mostly dying out during the morning. Light winds. High 9C (48F).

Scotland: Cloudy with light rain early. Sunny intervals later. Breezy westerly winds, feeling cool. High 8C (46F).

East Anglia: Overcast with scattered showers for a time. Drier later. Gentle southerly winds. High 10C (50F).

London/South East: Cloudy with light drizzle early. Brightening with sunny spells. Breezy, feeling cool. High 10C (50F).

South: The chance of an isolated shower at first, but sunny spells too. Moderate northerly winds. High 10C (50F).

South West: Wet with outbreaks of rain, possibly heavy at times. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Channel Isles: Hazy sunshine for a time, but cloudier with rain later. Brisk westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Very rough. Channel: Rough.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Anticipate a mix of cloud and rain. Breezy conditions with cooler temperatures. Occasional sunny spells may break through in some areas.

SIX-DAY FORECAST Temperatures in Centigrade

	WED min	WED max	THU min	THU max	FRI min	FRI max	SAT min	SAT max	SUN min	SUN max	MON min	MON max
London	8	9	6	10	4	9	2	8	2	7	2	6
Belfast	6	8	5	8	4	7	4	7	3	6	2	5
Birmingham	7	8	5	9	3	8	1	6	1	5	1	4
Cardiff	7	9	5	9	3	8	2	8	2	6	2	6
Glasgow	6	8	4	8	3	8	2	7	0	6	0	5
Manchester	7	9	6	9	3	8	2	6	1	6	2	5
Newcastle	5	8	5	6	3	7	2	6	1	5	1	4
Norwich	5	8	6	8	3	8	2	7	1	5	1	4
Plymouth	8	10	7	10	6	9	5	9	4	8	5	8

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.4	0.24	2	6
Aberporth	5.6	0.02	2	9
Alnwick	0.0	0.15	4	7
Belfast	0.0	0.15	4	8
Birmingham	0.0	0.19	6	9
B'mouth	0.0	0.10	7	10
Bristol	0.0	0.28	6	10
Cardiff	0.2	0.04	5	8
Durham	0.0	0.18	5	6
Edinburgh	6.4	0.04	1	7
Glasgow	1.4	0.08	3	6
Hull	0.4	0.02	5	8
Ipswich	0.3	0.00	5	9
Leeds	0.0	0.04	6	7
Lincoln	0.0	0.04	4	8
London	0.0	0.02	6	10
Manchester	0.0	0.15	5	8
Oxford	0.0	0.06	7	10
S'hampton	0.0	0.07	8	10
St Andrews	5.2	0.09	-1	6

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 8.58am, sets: 6.24pm
SUN rises London: 7.54am, sets: 4.29pm
Manchester rises: 8.11am, sets: 4.29pm

First Quarter 26 January

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(2.45am), (3.02pm)
Liverpool	(-), (12.06pm)
Greenock	(1.12am), (1.27pm)
Dover	(-), (12.00pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Sunday)

Warmest: Charlwood, 14c (56f).
Coldest: Kinloss, -6c (22f).
Wettest: Almondsbury, 0.42ins.
Sunniest: Kinloss, 6.1hrs.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.38pm-8.30am	Glasgow	4.25pm-8.29am
Birmingham	4.31pm-8.04am	London	4.29pm-7.53am
Bristol	4.39pm-8.03am	Manchester	4.29pm-8.10am
		Newcastle	4.19pm-8.14am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Fair	7C/45F	Amsterdam	Cloudy	6C/43F
Brussels	Sunny	10C/50F	Brussels	Cloudy	9C/48F
Dublin	Rain	8C/46F	Dublin	Rain	8C/46F
Frankfurt	Sunny	5C/41F	Frankfurt	Sunny	4C/39F
Geneva	Sunny	8C/46F	Geneva	Sunny	8C/46F
Lisbon	Rain	14C/57F	Lisbon	Showers	16C/61F
Madrid	Sunny	10C/50F	Madrid	Rain	9C/48F
Paris	Cloudy	11C/52F	Paris	Rain	11C/52F
Rome	Fair	14C/57F	Rome	Cloudy	13C/55F

Around the world yesterday

	C	F		C	F		C	F
Amsterdam . Cloudy	2	36	Hong Kong.. Sunny	21	70	New York ... Sleet	1	34
Athens ..... Cloudy	8	46	Istanbul..... Sleet	2	36	Nice ..... Cloudy	15	59
Barcelona... Shwrs	13	55	Jersey..... Cloudy	9	48	Nicosia ..... Sunny	10	50
Berlin ..... Sunny	3	37	Larnaca .... Sunny	12	54	Perth..... Sunny	32	90
Budapest ... Cloudy	-4	25	Las Palmas . Fair	19	66	Prague ..... Sunny	0	32
Cairo..... Sunny	17	63	Los Angeles . Fair	24	75	Singapore... Fair	29	84
Cape Town.. -	23	73	Luxor ..... Sunny	20	68	Stockholm .. Cloudy	1	34
Casablanca . Shwrs	13	55	Malaga ..... Sunny	12	54	Sydney..... Shwrs	23	73
Corfu ..... Cloudy	12	54	Mallorca .... Thndr	14	57	Tel Aviv..... Cloudy	15	59
Dublin..... Rain	7	45	Malta ..... -	16	61	Tenerife .... Sunny	21	70
Dubrovnik... Sunny	10	50	Melbourne .. Sunny	31	88	Toronto..... Fair	-7	19
Faro ..... Sunny	13	55	Miami ..... Thndr	27	81	Tunis..... Thndr	16	61
Florence.... Cloudy	12	54	Moscow .... Cloudy	-7	19	Venice ..... Sunny	6	43
Gibraltar .... Sunny	12	54	Nairobi ..... Fair	23	73	Vienna ..... Fair	-4	25
Guernsey... Shwrs	9	48	New Delhi .. Sunny	20	68	Warsaw .... Sunny	-8	18

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Sixty Labour MPs back social media ban for under-16s

BY **STEPH SPYRO** Deputy Political Editor

MORE than 60 Labour MPs have urged Keir Starmer to ban under-16s from social media.

The MPs include select committee chairs, former frontbenchers and members from the party's Left and Right.

They hope to pressure the Prime Minister as calls mount for the UK to follow the example of Australia, which brought in such a ban in December.

In the letter organised by Fred Thomas, the MPs said: "Across our constituencies, we hear the same message: children are anxious, unhappy and unable to focus on learning. They are not building the social skills needed to thrive, nor having the experiences that will prepare them for adulthood. Around the world, governments are recognising the severity of this crisis and taking action."

Highlighting existing or pending legislation in Australia, Denmark, France, Norway, New Zealand and Greece, the Labour MPs say: "We believe the onus must be placed on technology platforms, not parents, to prevent underage access.

"We would support a model similar to Australia's that requires companies to take meaningful steps to enforce age limits."

The government has stopped short of an England-wide ban on smartphones in schools, instead insisting that headteachers should decide. But ministers are considering time limits on the amount of time children can spend on social media.

Sir Keir's position will be put to the test tomorrow as the Lords votes on the issue in the form of an amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill by Tory peer Lord John Nash. It proposes enacting an age limit within 12 months of the bill's passage.

Kids' social media ban under debate

Shadow Education Secretary Laura Trott said "momentum is shifting fast" towards stopping under-16s using social media. She added: "The government should act. Credit to the Labour MPs calling for action, alongside parents, teachers and health professionals who want change. "Labour must back our amendment."

The Tories have said they will ban children from social media if they win power.

However, Tory peer Lord Frost hit out at the plans.

He said: "All the worst decisions in this country get taken when government and opposition agree and actual debate is squeezed out. Can't we at least pause and learn from the Australian experience rather than rushing in ourselves to do exactly the same thing?"

Hillsborough Law debate pulled amid backlash

BY **STEPH SPYRO**

KEIR Starmer faced fresh humiliation as the government abandoned a final debate on its Hillsborough Law after a backlash from Labour MPs and campaigners.

Proposed legislation creates a legal obligation for public authorities to cooperate with and tell the truth to inquiries.

But a government amendment would have made co-operation by intelligence officers subject to approval from the head of their service.

Bereaved families say MI5 and MI6 officers should be fully subject to the proposed law.

Disaster

They point to cases where MI5 has provided false information.

Sir Keir said yesterday he wanted to "get the balance right" on the law – named after the Hillsborough disaster in which 97 football fans died – amid concerns it could provide a get-out clause for spies.

He added: "What we're now trying to do is just make sure we get the balance right when it comes to the application of any principle to the security and intelligence agencies."

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Brooklyn's bombshell

He accuses them of 'lies' and ruining his wedding

BY **TOM BRYANT**

BROOKLYN Beckham last night launched an astonishing attack on his family – accusing them of controlling him for his "entire life" and of ruining his wedding.

In a bombshell online statement running to six pages, David and Victoria's eldest child tore into them for putting "Brand Beckham" above him and his wife Nicola.

The ex-photographer made astonishing allegations about his Spice Girl mum at his 2022 wedding – claiming she humiliated him by dancing "inappropriately" with him during what was meant to be his first dance with his actress bride.

Brooklyn, 26, said he was speaking up to counter the "lies" he claimed his parents were responsible for putting in the public domain to "preserve their own facade".

He wrote: "I do not want to reconcile with my family. I'm not being controlled, I'm standing up for myself for the first time in my life. For my entire life, my parents have controlled narratives in the press about our family. The performative social media posts, family events and inauthentic relationships have been a fixture of the life I was born into."

Brooklyn claimed his parents had been "trying endlessly to ruin" his relationship with billionaire's daughter Nicola in the run-up to their wedding and confirmed longstanding rumours that his fashion designer mum had "cancelled making Nicola's dress in the eleventh hour despite how excited she was to wear her design".

He claimed Sir David and Lady Victoria had "never treated [him] the same" since a row ahead of the Palm Beach ceremony.

Pressured

This was, Brooklyn added, after they "repeatedly pressured and attempted to bribe me into signing away the rights to my name".

He went on: "During the wedding planning, my mum went so far as to call me 'evil' because Nicola and I chose to include my Nanny Sandra, and Nicola's Naunni at our table, because they both didn't have their husbands. Both of our parents had their own tables equally adjacent to ours.

"The night before our wedding, members of my family told me that Nicola was 'not blood and 'not family'."

Brooklyn appeared to confirm reports of a bust-up over his first dance with Nicola at the star-studded bash. Accusing Victoria, 51, of "hijacking" the moment amid a romantic live song, he claimed: "In front of our 500 wedding guests [singer] Marc Anthony called me to the stage, where in the schedule was planned to be my romantic dance with my wife but instead my mum was waiting to dance with me.

"She danced very inappropriately on me in front of everyone. I've never felt more uncomfortable or humiliated in my entire life. We wanted to renew our vows so we could create new memories of our wedding day that bring us joy and happiness, not anxiety and embarrassment."

He claims it was the start of him "standing up for myself with my family"– but he had since received "endless attacks from my parents, both privately and publicly".

Brooklyn also referenced his frayed relationship with Cruz and Romeo: "Even my brothers were sent to attack me on social media, before they ultimately blocked me out of nowhere this last Summer."

He also claimed that his efforts to bring the family together had been thwarted by Nicola being "consistently disrespected". He appeared to refer to a row last summer over claims that Romeo, 23, was dating Brooklyn's ex-girlfriend Kim Turnbull, 24, who had been invited to family events. Kim has denied any romantic links.

Brooklyn added: "My mum has repeatedly invited women from my past into our lives in ways that were clearly intended to make us both uncomfortable."

He also lifted the lid on his non-appearance at his dad's 50th birthday party, which triggered reports of a family feud.

Recalling how he still went to London, Brooklyn said that he and Nicola were "rejected for a week as we waited in our hotel room trying to plan quality time with him. He refused all of our attempts, unless it was at his big birthday party with a hundred guests and cameras at every corner.

"When he finally agreed to see me, it was under the condition that Nicola wasn't invited. It was a slap in the face.

"Later, when my family travelled to LA, they refused to see me at all."

In a brutal takedown of his parents' public image, Brooklyn said his family "values public promotion and endorsements above all else. Brand Beckham comes first."

He added: "Family 'love' is decided by how much you post on social media, or how quickly you drop everything to show up and pose for a family photo op, even if it's at the expense of our professional obligations. We've gone out of our way for years to show up and support at every fashion show, every party, and every press activity to show 'our perfect family'."

Brooklyn claimed that the only time when his wife asked his mother to support her dog charity, Victoria refused to do so point-blank. The hot-sauce brand company owner also described reports that he was being "controlled" by his wife as "completely backwards".

Brooklyn Beckham, with wife Nicola and renewing their vows, parents David and Victoria, top

NURSES UNITED OVER

‘I never imagined that speaking out honestly

FROM PAGE ONE

that standing by my faith and speaking honestly about my experience could cost me my career.”

She declared: “I believe the public has a right to know what happens when staff are pressured to deny their conscience.”

Ms Melle, 40, was supported at Parliament by Bethany Hutchison, 36, and Lisa Lockey, 52 – two of seven nurses who won a legal fight with bosses of County Durham and Darlington NHS trust after they let a trans woman share their changing room and undress in front of them.

They were joined by nurse Sandie Peggie, 56, who was suspended by NHS Fife after objecting to having to share a changing room with a transgender medic.

Mum-of-two Ms Hutchison said: “After our landmark tribunal victory it is deeply troubling to see another nurse facing dismissal simply for standing by her conscience.

“The trust should learn from our case, respect the rights of staff and back down from punishing her.

“Silencing nurses for speaking out only undermines faith in the NHS and damages the dignity of women at work.”

Ms Peggie said: “I am proud to stand alongside the Darlington nurses to express my support and solidarity for Jennifer and to do what I can to highlight the mistreatment being suffered by her and many women who believe that sex is real and biological.” The four were joined by Shadow equalities minister Claire Coutinho and Tory MP colleagues Rebecca Paul and Mims Davies plus Jim Shannon of the Democratic Unionist Party and independent MP Rosie Duffield.

EXPRESS VOTE

is trans ideology undermining trust in the NHS?

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Under-threat Jennifer Melle, centre, with fellow nurses and MP supporters yesterday outside Parliament

They said that the quartet had stopped the UK from sleepwalking into an era of dangerous dogma.

Ms Coutinho said: “Jennifer’s case, as well as those of the Darlington nurses and Sandie Peggie, serves as a warning. How many more women will face these investigations for stating the simple fact that biological sex is real?

“Our institutions have become so captured by radical trans ideology that Jennifer cannot be seen as the victim, despite the vile racist abuse she suffered. The treatment she has suffered because of radical trans ideology beggars belief.

“[Her] Epsom and St Helier NHS trust have a choice. They can double down on their witch-hunt and sack Jennifer, or they can step back and accept that they are punishing an innocent woman who wants nothing more than to return to the job she loves. Common sense must prevail and this dedicated nurse must be allowed to return to work as soon as possible.”

Ms Melle is today due at a hearing with hospital bosses where she faces being dismissed from her job of 13 years for speaking out publicly about the racist abuse she suffered at the hands of Patient X.

She was told that talking about it was a breach of confidentiality, despite the patient’s ID remaining a secret. The transgender offender was taken to St Helier Hospital in Carshalton, Surrey, shackled to two guards from a men’s prison, for care for a urinary infection in 2024.

Listed as male on medical records, he was referred to as “Mr” and “he” while Ms Melle discussed his treatment. The nurse told him: “Sorry, I cannot refer to you as ‘her’ or ‘she’ as it’s against my faith and Christian values but I can call you by your name.”

She said this sparked racially and religiously motivated abuse in which he lunged at the single mum and called her “[the n-word]”. Ms Melle was suspended in April and referred to the Nursing and Midwifery Council. A hearing last month was postponed after public anger at the case and a petition calling for her reinstatement surged past 10,000 signatures.

A cross-party coalition of MPs has urged the trust not to sanction her further. Supporters include former Labour MP Ms Duffield. In 2022, as Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer said “a woman is a female adult, and in addition to that trans women are women...that is actually the law”. He has since changed his mind and now believes a woman is a biological woman.

Ms Melle’s hearing comes as confusion reigns in the NHS and elsewhere in the public sector despite the Supreme Court ruling last April that a woman is defined by biological sex under equality law.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission, regulator of the Equality Act, passed a revised code of practice to Bridget Phillipson, the minister for women and equalities, on September 4 yet the gov-

TRANSGENDER CASE

standing by my faith and could cost me my career’

Nurse Jennifer Melle, left, hugs shadow equalities minister Claire Coutinho

ernment has failed to act on it. Health Secretary Wes Streeting promised to ensure “single-sex spaces are protected” but the impasse means that, despite legal victories for the Darlington nurses and Ms Peggie, individual NHS trusts can still decide which staff can use changing rooms.

Andrea Williams, chief executive of the Christian Legal Centre which is supporting Ms Melle, said: “Jennifer’s case is not just about one nurse, it’s about truth.

“It’s about common sense. The Supreme Court has made it clear that biological sex is legally recognised, yet institutions are ignoring binding law while clinging to ideological policies.

“Failure to stand with Jennifer sets a dangerous precedent: if professional bodies can disregard Supreme Court rulings and fail to protect the very people they were set up to look after then the rule of law itself is at risk. Jennifer’s fight will determine whether legal rights mean anything in practice.”

Former round-the-world sailor Tracy Edwards, 63, whose charity The Maiden Factor champions women’s rights, girls’ education and empowerment, said: “We are in the midst of a worldwide war on women and we will not go gentle into that dark night.

“We will protest and we will take legal action, again and again until our politicians enforce the law.

“There are still men in women’s prisons, women’s sports, female changing rooms and toilets and all women’s single-sex spaces. In time the nurses’ contribution could be seen as important as the women who campaigned for the right to vote and, ultimately, helped change history through deeds not words.”

Epsom and St Helier trust commented: “Racial abuse of our staff is never acceptable, nor is discussing a patient’s private medical information publicly.

“We are sorry that Ms Melle had this experience and we issued a written warning to this patient, but we expect all staff to maintain patient confidentiality at all times.”

OPINION: PAGE 12

COMMENT

MAYA FORSTATER

Chief Executive of charity Sex Matters

TODAY an NHS nurse faces a disciplinary hearing for talking to the media about what happened when she referred to a convicted male paedophile as “he” while treating him in an NHS hospital. We should all be talking about this.

The nurse received a written warning for not respecting his so-called “gender identity” – that is, his claim to be a woman. Never mind that he rained racial abuse on her while she was trying to insert a catheter into his penis.

For every nurse or midwife who has been disciplined for calling a male patient “he” or a female patient “she”, or told that she cannot object to a man in her changing room, there are hundreds more who dare not complain. Stopping health professionals from speaking honestly puts everyone at risk. Treating men as women is especially harmful to women’s privacy, safety and dignity.

This is how the madness of transgenderism has taken over at the NHS. Instead of focusing on healthcare priorities, many managers there have become obsessed with affirming false identities. In a hospital, calling a man “she” isn’t a courtesy – it’s a lie that is harmful to everyone involved. And none of the nurses or midwives taking these legal cases have had any support from the unions they have paid subscriptions to for years.

Madness

Instead of protecting their members, unions have also become focused on promoting gender ideology. Unison, for example, has campaigned and demonstrated in favour of policies that allow trans-identifying men to use women’s changing rooms.

Everybody needs the right healthcare: that is often different for men and women. Staff need to be able to think clearly; trying to remember wrong pronouns is a distraction from their important work.

Other patients are being lied to; everyone has to pretend they don’t see and hear the man in the female-only ward. And in this case not just any man, but a man with a strange belief about himself, a man who rages when people speak the truth about him.

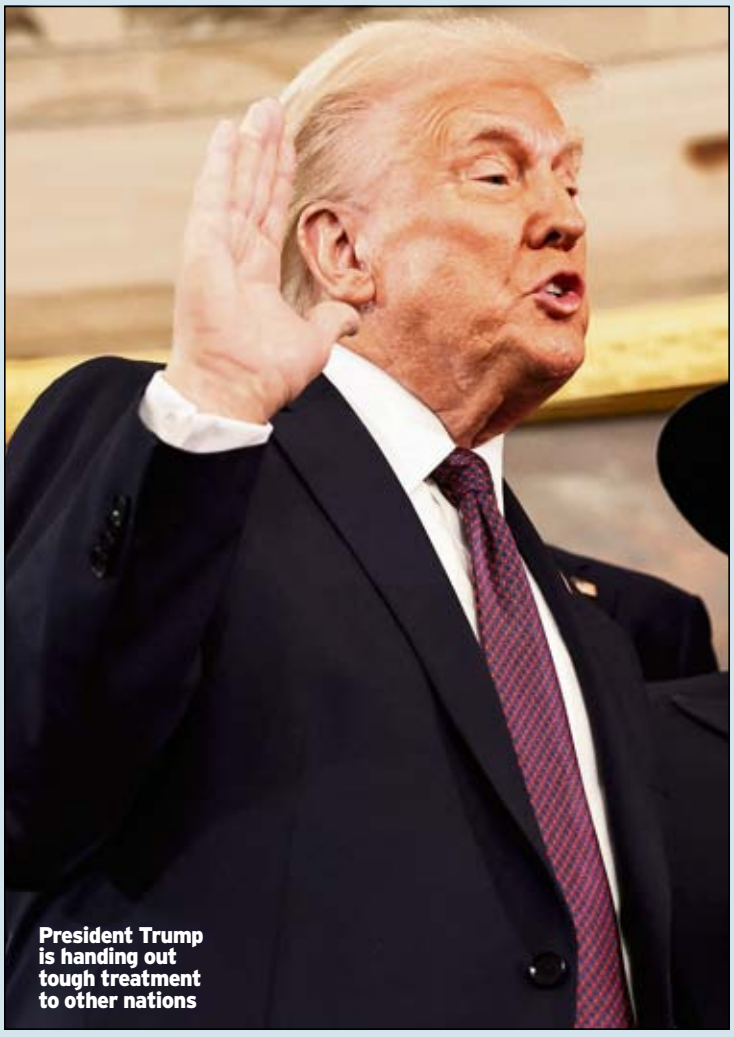
This is not a marginal issue about a tiny number of people who feel they are transgender.

This madness harms every woman and child in the UK, and every man, too. Sex matters across many areas of society. Toilets and changing rooms provided for dignity and privacy, hospital wards, sport, prisons, rape counselling, domestic abuse refuges, your own healthcare – for all these it is reckless to ignore reality.

Most men are not a risk to women, but some are. Violent and sexual crimes are almost all committed by men.

Ignoring reality is dangerous. We have to stop pretending people can change sex – for everyone’s sake.

PRESIDENT'S THREAT COULD



President Trump is handing out tough treatment to other nations

Don does what it says on the tin... Sir Keir's calmer

ANALYSIS

MARTYN BROWN
Political Editor

IN many ways, the first year since Donald Trump returned to office has been entirely predictable.

From the moment he stepped into the White House, he made it clear his America First agenda meant just that. On immigration, global tariffs, Nato, Ukraine, government waste and the rest.

To pinch the popular Ronseal tagline from the 1990s, he does exactly what it says on the tin.

Without a shadow of a doubt his second stint as POTUS has been even more chaotic than the first.

Despot

Dramatic changes coming at breakneck speed.

In the 12 months since he took office, the 47th US president has deployed his power in a way that compares with few predecessors.

This year alone he has seized Venezuelan despot Nicolas Maduro and threatened Britain and seven other countries with tariffs if he does not get his way over Greenland.

Fuelled by ambition, ego and, seemingly, his frustration at not winning the Nobel Peace Prize, Trump is doing it his way – leaving leaders in many capitals genuinely worried. Sir Keir Starmer's approach is very different indeed.

At times he has been ingratiating, desperate not to upset the volatile Republican strongman.

He is dealing with a man who doesn't do normal, doesn't do calm and doesn't give a diddly squat about the rules.

What the former New York real estate tycoon likes best is the rough and tumble of frank confrontations.

Remember the Oval Office clash with President Zelensky?

Sir Keir's strategy in dealing with this latest flare-up over Greenland is to try to take the heat out of it.

He said he doesn't want a trade war. Sir Keir is not in favour of retaliatory tariffs, which some in Europe want to see.

Calm discussion can make a difference, he insists.

Danish troops were on exercise in Greenland over the weekend

BRITAIN could dive into recession if Donald Trump goes ahead with tariffs designed to force the sale of Greenland to America.

Our economy could shrink by up to £22billion as GDP reduces by between 0.3% and 0.75%, said Paul Dales from Capital Economics.

The US president says he will charge Britain a 10% tariff "on any and all goods" exported to the States from February 1.

The tax would jump to 25% from June 1 and stand until a deal is reached for Washington DC to buy Greenland from Denmark.

Mr Dales said: "With the UK economy currently growing by 0.2-0.3% a quarter, if this hit came all at once it could trigger a recession." Stock markets plunged after Mr Trump's threat to Britain and

BY **MARTYN BROWN**
Political Editor

seven other Nato nations – Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland – who have united against his territorial ambitions.

The president claims he wants to acquire mineral-rich Arctic island Greenland – which is part governed by Denmark – to protect the United States due to its strategic location.

Infuriated

Yesterday, it emerged the decision not to award him a Nobel Peace Prize – given by an independent committee each year in Norway – had infuriated Mr Trump.

On Sunday he wrote to Norwegian PM Jonas Store: "Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace, although it will always be predominant, but can now think about what is good and proper for the United States of America.

"Denmark cannot protect that land from Russia or China, and why do they have a 'right of ownership' anyway? There are no written documents, it's only that a boat landed there hundreds of years ago, but we had boats landing there, also. I have done more for Nato than any other person since its founding, and now, Nato should do something for the United States.

"The World is not secure unless

Britain ‘would be at risk of recession’ if Trump’s tariffs get green light

Starmer urges diplomatic response

Keir Starmer during his address to country

we have Complete and Total Control of Greenland. Thank you!”

Yesterday Keir Starmer called for calm as he played down the prospect of the US invading Greenland, where Danish soldiers were pictured during shooting practice.

At the weekend, thousands of people protested in the island’s capital Nuuk against the president’s desire to acquire their land.

Mr Starmer told Mr Trump over the phone on Sunday, his threats to Nato allies over Greenland were “completely wrong”.

But yesterday, the PM insisted Mr Trump was not serious about using military force to annex the island, and signalled that Britain would not engage in a trade war over the dispute as this was “not the right way to resolve differences within an alliance”.

Mr Trump, however, refused to reveal if the US would use force to seize Greenland, saying only: “No comment”.

Asked if he believed Mr Trump was genuinely prepared to invade, Sir Keir told reporters: “I don’t.”

He added: “I think that this can be resolved and should be resolved through calm discussion, but with the application of the principles and values that I’ve set out in terms of who decides the future of Greenland, and making clear that the use of tariffs in this way is completely wrong.” In an emergency address from No10, Sir Keir called the crisis a “moment for the whole country to pull together”, insisting the “right way to approach an issue of this seriousness is through calm discussion between allies”.

Pressure

He reiterated his stance that the future sovereignty of Greenland is solely a matter for it and Denmark, and added: “The use of tariffs against allies is completely wrong.

“It is not the right way to resolve differences within an alliance, nor is it helpful to frame efforts to strengthen Greenland security as a justification for economic pressure.” But Mr Trump yesterday said the US would “100%” follow through on his threats to impose further tariffs if a deal was not reached.

In a sign of the seriousness with which the government appeared to take US threats, Chancellor Rachel Reeves was among senior Cabinet ministers at the PM’s announcement. Sir Keir also abandoned plans for a cost-of-living related visit at the 11th hour.

He said he would speak to the US president about Greenland again “in the coming days”.

Mr Trump is expected to attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, this week. Ms Reeves and Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper are also set to be there.

Reform UK leader Nigel Farage suggested negotiation was a preferred response to a trade war, but called threats of tariffs “wrong”, and said he would be “having some words with the American administration” about it in Davos.

Kemi Badenoch urged the president to “withdraw the threat of tariffs for the good of US and European security”. The Tory leader posted a picture on X of the White House’s national security strategy document, highlighting several passages. One read: “Not only can we not afford to write Europe off – doing so would be self-defeating for what this strategy aims to achieve.”

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DX1ST

Misconduct inquiry into fan-ban cop

BY **ELLIE CRABBE**

FORMER West Midlands Chief Constable Craig Guildford is facing a misconduct probe after Maccabi Tel Aviv football fans were banned from a match against Aston Villa in November.

He quit on Friday, days after Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said he lost her confidence.

At the time, police and crime commissioner Simon Foster, who had powers to sack him but did not, said Guildford had acted with honour.

But yesterday,Mr Foster said he was "making a voluntary referral to the Independent Office for Police Conduct".

The watchdog will investigate the Europa League ban on the Israeli fans to "determine if any officer or staff member may have a case to answer for misconduct".

A review by Sir Andy Cooke, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, found eight "inaccuracies" in a report from the force, including mention of a game between Tel Aviv and West Ham, found to be an "AI hallucination".

Clean water proposal is full of leaks

BY **STEPH SPYRO**

LABOUR plans to clean Britain's rivers lack the "bold reform" needed to tackle the "emergency", campaigners warned.

Water giants will be required to carry out infrastructure "MOTs" to prevent major failures, under proposals for a new watchdog. A chief engineer will ensure firms "do not mark their own homework".

The government plan is a response to public fury over rising bills, sewage pollution, supply failures and big bonuses.

But James Wallace, boss of pressure group River Action, said: "None of these reforms will make a meaningful difference unless the failed privatised model is confronted head on."

Emma Reynolds, the Environment Secretary, said the "once-in-a-generation reforms" offer "tough oversight, real accountability, and no more excuses."

Water UK said: "Our country will not have the environment it wants or the economic growth it needs until a new water regulator is established."

REFORM'S NEW RECRUITS

Jenrick: I was driven out by lack of values

Former Tory MP rallies constituents in Newark yesterday

ROBERT Jenrick uses his first major speech since defecting to Reform UK to blast Kemi Badenoch and Keir Starmer as "deluded".

Taking to the stage at a packed rally in his Newark constituency, the former Shadow Justice Secretary accused the Tory and Labour leaders of "living in cloud cuckoo land" by denying Britain is in "serious decline". He also told the 2,000 constituents at the event that he joined Reform because too many Tory MPs had given up on conservative values.

BY **CHRISTIAN CALGIE**
Senior Political Correspondent

Many were "nice people", he said, "but at least a third would feel more at home in the Lib Dems. The truth is, they would rather be bungee-jumping with Ed Davey". To those considering joining him, he said: "I predict that after the next election you'll be more likely to see a dodo or woolly mammoth north of Watford Gap than a Tory or Labour MP."

Reform leader Nigel Farage also spoke and condemned Ms Badenoch and Sir Keir for denying Britain was broken. He was expected to unveil a Labour defector today but the press conference was delayed last night.

Farage has the 'bulldog spirit' of Thatcher says latest Tory MP defector

EXCLUSIVE

BY **MARTYN BROWN** Political Editor

NIGEL Farage has the same "bulldog spirit" as Margaret Thatcher, new Reform UK MP Andrew Rosindell has said.

He became the second top Tory to jump ship in a week, after Robert Jenrick defected last Thursday.

Mr Rosindell said he was persuaded to resign as a shadow foreign office minister on Kemi Badenoch's front bench because of the "failure" of the Conservative Party to hold Labour to account on its decision to hand the Chagos Islands to Mauritius.

Cleaning

He also took a swipe at his former boss, saying his decision to quit the party was made easier by Mrs Badenoch "throwing Rob under the bus" after she uncovered his plot to defect to Reform. And he added that her remarks – describing the two MPs' departures as "spring cleaning" – showed an "ugly side".

Mr Rosindell, who has been a Conservative MP for Romford since 2001 and a party member for 45 years, said: "What really did it was sitting in the chamber and hearing that Robert Jenrick had been expelled from the Conservative Party. I was devastated.

Reform UK leader Nigel Farage and Andrew Rosindell yesterday

"Kemi should have had him in, personally spoken to him, if she'd found that document [memo on Jenrick's planned defection]. Surely Robert was worth saving.

"So if he isn't worth saving, and he's going to be thrown under a bus, I'm thinking someone like me could easily be thrown under a bus too."

Expressing bitterness towards remarks on his departure, he added: "I think that what they show is a side which I think is quite ugly.

"If I was her, I'd be sorrowful for losing two of her hardest working and strongest Conservative MPs."

The Brexiteer joked that his political views meant that he was "Reform before there was Reform".

And he said that he only really made up his mind to defect after speaking on the phone to his new party's leader Mr Farage on Saturday and Sunday. The lifelong admirer of Mrs Thatcher said he believed Mr Farage has similar traits to the former Conservative Prime Minister.

"He has the bulldog spirit like she did," Mr Rosindell said.

"She would never weaken against any attack on Britain or British interests. So I think he has the makings of being a truly great Prime Minister.

"And I think if Margaret Thatcher was here today, she'd be admiring him for what he's saying and doing, and she'd certainly agree with his politics, because his political views are very close to everything she stood up for."

Deluded

A Conservative Party source said: "Andrew is clearly deluded. Jenrick admitted that he decided to defect to Reform months ago.

"Nothing is as nasty as still sitting in meetings and pretending to be part of the team when you're planning to stab colleagues in the back.

"Similarly, we all know Andrew had his difficulties, it is not nasty to point that out."

They added: "Reform are a one-man band with nothing to say about the future of Britain."

ROYAL SAYS REPORTING LED TO 'DISTRUST'

Intrusion left Harry 'paranoid beyond belief'

Duke flies in for showbiz privacy trial

Duke smiles outside High Court yesterday

BY **EMILY FERGUSON**
Royal Editor

PRINCE Harry's friends were a "good source of leaks" about his life, his privacy trial heard – as he said he was left "paranoid beyond belief" by reports about him.

The Duke of Sussex is one of seven taking legal action against Daily Mail publisher Associated Newspapers Ltd for alleged unlawful information gathering.

In a statement to the court, Harry, 41, who flew back to the UK for the start of the nine-week trial, said reporting of his personal life caused "massive strain" on his close relationships. He also described the experience as "terrifying" for loved ones.

The duke, whose claim relates to 14 articles, said he felt his "every move, thought or feeling was being tracked and monitored" and this created "distrust and suspicion," driving him "paranoid beyond belief, isolating [him]".

He sat in the Central London High Court with other claimants, Liz Hurley – there with son Damian – actress Sadie Frost and former Lib Dem MP Sir Simon Hughes. Sir Elton John and husband David Furnish, who are also taking action, watched by video link. Baroness Doreen Lawrence is the seventh claimant.

The group alleges ANL carried out or commissioned unlawful activities such as hiring private investigators to bug cars, "blag" private records and access private phone conversations from 1993 to 2018. ANL "vehemently" denies the "preposterous allegations".

The group of claimants are represented by barrister David Sherborne. In a written submission, he said Harry was "caused great distress by each and every episode of UIG (unlawful information gathering) against him by Associated or on its behalf, and the fruits of that UIG in the 14 unlawful articles".

Terrifying

Mr Sherborne added: "The targeting of him has had a profoundly distressing effect, with episodes of pleaded UIG described as 'disturbing to feel that my every move, thought or feeling was being tracked and monitored just for the Mail to make money out of it'... 'intrusion (that) was terrifying' for loved ones."

The duke alleges a private investigator called Mike Behr was commissioned to unlawfully obtain flight details and the seat number of Harry's then-girlfriend Chelsy Davy for her journey to South Africa, and that he suggested he could "plant someone next to her".

Other articles related to "the intimate family matter" of Harry being chosen as godfather to the child of his former nanny Tiggy Legge-Bourke.

In his witness statement, he said: "I find it deeply troubling that Associated used phrases such as 'sources', 'friend' and the like as a device to hide unlawful information gathering.

"I find it shocking to learn from disclosure that Associated were even using Mike Behr to blag my flight details as late as 2014 for work that he did not even want to put into writing." Antony White KC, for Associated, said in his written opening statement that the articles in the case "were sourced entirely legitimately from information variously provided by contacts of the journalists responsible, including individuals in the Duke of Sussex's social circle, press officers and publicists, freelance journalists, photographers and prior reports".

He added: "At all material times, the Duke of Sussex's social circle was and was known to be a good source of leaks or disclosure of information to the media about what he got up to in his private life."

Evidence

He also said the Palace gave information about Harry's life and he discussed it himself in the media. The royal, whose wife Meghan and two children are not in Britain, is expected to give evidence to the hearing on Thursday.

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Artist's impression, from left, of Sir Simon, Harry, Liz and Damian Hurley

EXPRESS EXTRA

Scan here to get the best royal stories on WhatsApp

Liz Hurley and son Damian arrive at court

Queen with Dennis and Gnasher

Camilla's on Beano for reading

BY **EMILY FERGUSON**

THE Queen found herself championing Dennis the Menace yesterday after he was torn off a strip by his mum.

Camilla and Charles headed out for their first engagements of the year. And while he enjoyed a £60 dram of whisky, she launched Scotland's National Year of Reading campaign.

The Queen visited the National Library in Edinburgh, where she met Beano star Dennis and his dog Gnasher.

She was given a strip featuring herself coming to the rebel's rescue after his mum told him off for reading a comic in a library.

Cartoon Camilla tells him: "Go all in for the National Year of Reading, Dennis! Comics and audiobooks count too!"

Marvelling at her caricature, she joked: "I wish." She was

HER MAJESTY QUEEN CAMILLA, A FELLOW READER, ARRIVES TO EXPLAIN THE 'NEW RULES!'
GO ALL IN FOR THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING, DENNIS! COMICS AND AUDIOBOOKS COUNT TOO!
WOW! MY OWN YEAR OF MISCHIEF STARTS TODAY!
BEANO'S READING THAT BREAKS THE RULES!

Queen gives tips in special strip

highlighting how listening to audiobooks counts as reading as much as picking up a book.

Discussing the crusade, the Queen said: "Just to get everybody reading again, especially now, is so important. The battle against these machines. Get them back to books." Meanwhile, the King hosted 130 people at The Palace of Holyroodhouse to celebrate Scottish entrepreneurs.

Charles enjoyed a sip from a £1,800 bottle of Lowland Single Malt Scotch Whisky – and was told a single dram would usually cost £60. Leonard Russell, boss of Falkirk's Rosebank distillery warned: "Be careful sir, it's high strength."

The King said: "The terrible thing about it is, the photograph is never the most fetching."

He later held an investiture.

Parents of baby killed at nursery hand in letter to No10 demanding safety review

EXCLUSIVE

BY **RICHARD ASHMORE**

THE parents of a baby killed at a nursery yesterday called on Sir Keir Starmer for an urgent safety review.

John and Katie Meehan's daughter Genevieve died from asphyxiation when she was tightly swaddled, strapped face-down to a beanbag and left unattended at the Tiny Toes nursery in Stockport, Greater Manchester, in 2022.

Genevieve, known as Gigi, was just nine months old.

Nursery worker Kate Roughley was jailed for 14 years for manslaughter in 2024. John and Katie launched the Campaign for Gigi to call for mandatory training for staff, stronger Ofsted inspections and CCTV in all nurseries.

Yesterday, they handed a personal letter to 10 Downing Street calling for new statutory guidelines.

John said: "These are life and death points and are not difficult to do, it's straightforward. We have made really good progress so far, but we've had commitments to act but we really need the will to match the rhetoric now, we need these actions.

"There's a real commitment to do this in Genevieve's name, and we are not going away, we are going to keep pushing for these changes.

"When we speak to parents, lots of them are saying to us they expected the things we are campaigning for to be here already.

"They can't believe they are not. There is a real sense of concern."

Tragic Genevieve, known as Gigi, and John and Katie at Downing Street, inset

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Smugglers use emojis to hide crossing ads

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

PEOPLE smugglers are disguising adverts for Channel crossings on social media using emojis and codes to avoid detection.

Criminal kingpins are behind the posts on sites such as TikTok.

The National Crime Agency said gangs operate "a large number of accounts" simultaneously to "increase their reach" and allow them to fill boats and lorries.

Crosshead

In a bid to avoid being spotted by social media sites' tech, smugglers are increasingly putting emojis, text and codes over video clips of successful small-boat crossings.

They hope this will trick software designed to root out illegal content.

The crooks also offer "sham marriages", help claiming asylum and false identity documents.

Mike Hulett, head of the NCA's Online Communication Centre, said: "Targeting the social media offering of these criminal networks is just one way we are looking to disrupt their business models. We continue to work closely with social media companies to remove this material and we have positive dialogue with them. We are clear though that more needs to be done to stop platforms being used to advertise criminal services."

Channel migrants arrive in Kent yesterday

The NCA said it removed 10,000 accounts, pages or posts in 2025 – up by almost a third.

Smugglers advertise crossings from France, claiming migrants are brought across on "jet boats", or in the back of lorries used as a "taxi service".

Some 658 migrants have crossed the Channel this year, with 455 arriving over the weekend despite wintry conditions. Total Channel arrivals for 2025 were 41,472 – the second highest annual figure on record.

DAN MILLER Owner, student recruitment company Richmond, London

CARRINGTON SAUNDERS Owner, online loungewear business South East London

ANDREA COOPER Lettings agency owner Barnsley, South Yorks

LAWRENCE ROSENBERG PR specialist Watford, Hertfordshire

LEVI HODGETTS-HAGUE Former RAF gunner and HGV driver Doncaster, South Yorks

MEGAN RUITER Owner of an online women's clothing brand, Wirral

MARCUS DONKOH Barbershop owner South London

PASCHA MYHILL Recruitment consultant Reading Berkshire

KIERAN McCARTNEY Estate agent East London

NIKKI JETHA Mortgage broker Hornchurch, Essex

Twenty new hopefuls in Lord Sugar's firing line

Bigger line-up to mark two decades of The Apprentice

Tim Campbell, Lord Sugar, and Baroness Brady

BY **MARK JEFFERIES**

EXPECT more finger-pointing firings on this series of The Apprentice, as Lord Sugar will be whittling down an expanded field of hopefuls.

The series has 20 wannabe business wonders, up from the usual 18, to mark its 20th year.

And with only 12 weeks to ditch 19 of them, Lord Sugar will need to do some double-firings.

The milestone series kicks off in dramatic fashion as the contestants vying for Lord Sugar's £250,000 investment jet off for a challenge in the Far East.

The pioneering peer said: "In the first episode we go to Hong Kong, my old hunting ground! The thinking behind it was it's the 20th series and what can we do that's different? So I thought, 'Well, why don't I jump on a plane and surprise them in Hong Kong?'"

Viewers will see the candidates take on tough tasks including creating a children's book, selling live on television, and hosting a corporate away day on the Red Sea at El Gouna, Egypt.

Personalities

Baroness Brady CBE, advising Lord Sugar alongside former winner Tim Campbell MBE, said of them: "They're full of energy. They weren't very nervous. Some are a bit overconfident. There's a real mix of personalities."

The BBC has called on production firm Naked to carry out stricter background checks on contestants, after one appearing in the forthcoming series was found to have made offensive posts on social media.

The messages from Levi Hodgetts-Hague included discriminatory remarks towards Muslims and sexist comments about women, according to the Sun on Sunday. Naked said that the process would be reviewed.

Ex-RAF gunner Mr Hodgetts-Hague apologised for the posts, which have now been deleted.

His rivals range from a mortgage broker to a London-based barbershop owner who says he wants to expand to New York, Dubai and Tokyo. Here are all 20 of the boardroom gurus...

HARRY CLOUGH Financial Sales Manager Battersea, London

KARISHMA VIJAY Owner, beauty brand, Ashford, Surrey

RAJAN GILL Pharmaceutical sales specialist Medway, Kent

ROXANNE HAMEDI Pharmacist Aberdeen, Scotland

TANMAY HINGORANI AI product consultant Islington, London

VANESSA TETTEH-SQUIRE Tech project manager Enfield, London

PRIYESH BATHIA Global account manager Harrow, London

ROTHNA AKHTAR Student wellbeing adviser East London

CONOR GALVIN Owner, photobooth business Cork, Ireland

GEORGINA NEWTON Actress and events manager East London

DAILY EXPRESS

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Nurses in united stand over transgender case

IT is good to see the Darlington nurses and Sandie Peggie backing Jennifer Melle's fight against woke madness infecting our public sector. They are right to take a united stand and fight for common sense.

Jennifer faces being struck off as a medic for apparently misgendering a transgender paedophile patient.

She has been hounded by hospital bosses for almost two years for calling a 6ft bearded sex offender Mr.

Her fate is likely to be decided in a private disciplinary meeting with Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust today.

As she prepared for her day of reckoning she was joined in a show of solidarity by colleagues who fought public sector biological sex denial and won.

Bethany Hutchison, 36, and Lisa Lockey, 52, won a legal fight against County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust for allowing a biological male trans woman to share their changing room and undress in front of them.

Nurse Sandie Peggie, 56, was suspended by NHS Fife after she complained about having to share a changing room with a transgender medic.

Jennifer also has public and political support behind her. A petition demanding she is reinstated has surged past 10,000 signatures, while a cross-party coalition of MPs has written to the trust demanding she is reinstated.

Her hearing comes as chaos and confusion continues to engulf the NHS and wider public sector despite a Supreme Court ruling in April last year that stated a woman was defined by biological sex under equality law.

We hope common sense prevails.

Starmer's right over Trump Greenland plan

FOR once, Sir Keir Starmer has got something right. We must remain calm and try to talk some sense into Donald Trump over his threat of tariffs as he seeks to get his hands on Greenland.

Now is the time for diplomacy, not discord. The US president, a brash New York real estate developer, sees the huge island as a deal he must win.

But he risks damaging the transatlantic alliance, Nato and the US-UK special relationship in his quest for minerals and strategic gain.

Trump's ego is at play too, seemingly seeking retribution over his failure to secure a Nobel Peace Prize.

Despite this menacing storm, Sir Keir's call for calm discussion between allies is surely the right approach.

Harry's home truths

PRINCE Harry is back in Britain for a few days as he fights yet another court battle. What a shame he can't concentrate on sorting out the biggest battle of them all – mending his relationships with his father and his brother.

Surely it wouldn't take much to try and pay them a visit so they can all start on the road to reconciliation.

Capital deserves a mayor who really serves Londoners

Britain's capital city remains great, but it's little surprise Londoners feel less safe

Laila Cunningham
Guest columnist

GROWING up in London, our capital was rightly considered the greatest city on Earth. So it breaks my heart to say this but it no longer feels that way. It really doesn't. Instead, under Labour Mayor Sir Sadiq Khan, London has become a byword for chaos and criminality.

Just look at the latest crime statistics. They are horrific. Knife crime is up 68% during Khan's 10 years in power. Robbery up 50%. More than 100,000 phones are stolen every year. Sex offences are on the increase. Meanwhile, shoplifting has become so endemic stores are having to employ their own private security guards to police their aisles.

All very well for the big supermarkets, you might say, but what of all those small businesses – the local shops, the chemists, the fashion boutiques – which operate on far smaller profits? Little wonder so many young people are now reported to be leaving the capital to live elsewhere. It's hard not to conclude that they no longer feel safe bringing up a young family here. As a mother of seven, I certainly don't.

AND where have the Metropolitan Police been during all this? I can't recall a time when public confidence in the Met has been so low. But since they have almost zero visibility on our streets, that's hardly surprising.

As a child, everyone knew who their local policeman was. They played a big part in every community. Nowadays, bobbies on the beat are as rare as red phone boxes.

Increasingly, we are told more and more people aren't even bothering to report burglaries, which is truly appalling considering how traumatic home intrusions can be.

But with recent data showing more than 80% of household burglaries in London go unsolved, can anyone blame them? The sad truth is that the public don't report crimes because they think the police won't bother to do anything about it. I myself can sympathise. When my own children were mugged, police told me there weren't enough resources to investigate.

But God forbid you address someone the wrong way or write something on X that a person doesn't agree with. Do that and you can be sure two uniformed coppers will be at your front door in a shot.

And heaven help you if you own a car in London. The congestion charge has now skyrocketed to £18 just to enter central London – and that's if motorists can even get there through all the constant roadworks and delays.

As for the Ulez scheme, it makes my blood boil the way Khan continues to bill it as some sort of green initiative when everyone knows it's just another way of fleecing motorists out of more money.

Speaking of money, Khan's always moaning about a lack of funding from the Treasury but look how he sprays the stuff around on his own office.

He's nearly doubled the cost of the mayor's staffing budget on pointless bureaucrats, with no fewer than nine deputy mayors swanning around City Hall earning around £150,000 a year. What on earth do these people do all day?

It is all of this waste and incompetence that has persuaded me to stand as the Reform UK candidate for Mayor of London at the next mayoral election in 2028.

Political pundits scoff that London belongs to Labour. Rubbish. It belongs to the people. It's true that Sadiq Khan has barely been challenged at the ballot box but that's because the Tories never bothered to stand anyone credible against him. When I launch my campaign, voters will be presented with a genuine alternative.

In the meantime, I can promise you this. I will declare an all-out war on crime – against knife gangs, drug dealers, phone thieves, shoplifters and those rape gangs that have been ignored. I can assure you, they will have nowhere to hide.

It will be a reckoning.

THEN, I'll rewrite the Met's priorities, cut waste at City Hall and consign the hated Ulez scheme to the dustbin.

I'll get those uncooperative councils moving, allowing developers to build more homes and ensure British citizens get priority when it comes to social housing. Most of all, I'll give London back to Londoners. I want a city that works for the people, not the politicians.

A city that represents the best of us all in Britain, whether we live there or not. A city once again proud to stand among the world's greatest capitals. I'm not tied to ideology, my priorities won't be mine, they'll be yours.

Unlike Khan, I'm not running to serve a personal agenda. I'm running to serve Londoners.

'People are now leaving the capital to live elsewhere'

Esther McVey

The voice of common sense

Negotiation is the real deal for Donald

WITH Donald Trump you always need to read the message within the message.

Everything is a negotiation for him and he tends to go in big then pulls back to achieve what he always wanted.

If his threats to take over Greenland and impose tariffs on Europe of 10% rising to 25% by June – as stated on his social media site – become a reality

rather than a negotiation tool, then he's lost the plot and threatens the existence of Nato.

However, my take would be he wants Europe to fulfil their promise of increasing their spend on defence.

So far, this extra expenditure has not been forthcoming.

The UK will be £28billion short by the end of the decade, and Trump is right to be fed up that US taxpayers are always picking up too much of the tab for Europe's security.

Trust puts Tories in poll position

ACCORDING to the latest YouGov poll, the Conservatives now have a nine-point lead over Labour on who voters most trust to run the economy. A reversal of the seven-point lead Labour held in June 2024 just before the election, 29-22% over the Tories. When Labour is in opposition people forget their economic incompetence, but once back in power the public recall it in record time.

D'oh! Sideshow Rob saves clueless Keir

THE weekend papers should have been wall-to-wall coverage of Keir Starmer's disastrous stewardship of the UK. His never-ending U-turns, now clocking up at a rate of one every six weeks; his dismantling of democracy as four million people are to be deprived of their vote at the local elections in May; and the devastation he is heaping on pubs, hotels, cafes and the high street, with a pub going to the wall each day. Instead, Slippery Starmer was let off the hook as Robert Jenrick's bizarre defection stole the headlines.

Be in no doubt there is bitterness when a colleague defects. When someone you thought of as "one of us" does the dirty and leaves you, it's like a partner having an affair and then running off with them, it's painful. Some defections seem more genuine, others more personal, and I'm afraid to say Robert's felt personal.

The reality is he never got over losing the leadership election to Kemi Badenoch. For a while, I'm quite certain he harboured the belief he would be her immediate successor, maybe even as soon as the local elections, as the polls initially made difficult viewing for Conservatives. He would therefore work hard, show he was leadership material and expose Labour's failures, which he did brilliantly with energy and ingenuity.

His video exposing Sadiq Khan's lawless London and fare dodgers was inspired and went viral, he regularly wiped the floor with David "Calamity" Lammy in the House of Commons, and nailed Labour over its plans to scrap trial by jury – which without doubt will be their next U-turn. Unfortunately for Robert, Kemi got much stronger at the despatch box and more assured in the media. Her dismantling of Rachel Reeves at the Budget was a watershed moment, helping to turn around the fortunes of the Conservative Party and making her position as leader safe.

It seems that this realisation caused Robert's personal ambition to get the better of him and without the carrot of leadership dangling, he began to plot his defection. Kemi got wind of it, exposed his disloyalty, and forced his hand.

The great sadness of this is that it has taken our eye off the ball. The political battle is not between the Conservative Party and Reform – we have much in common. It's against this lousy government and socialism. The country's fight is with the left, and the threat of a rainbow coalition that will help Labour remain in power. We saw this in the Caerphilly by-election in Wales, Plaid Cymru won and pushed Reform into second place as the left rallied around Plaid.

My message is forget Robert and Andrew Rosindell's defections, they are a sideshow. Our focus must be on removing Starmer and this awful socialist government and getting the news coverage back on the havoc this bunch of duds is inflicting on us all.

Adele on a roll and crying her art out

Adele is a once in a generation star. Her first album, released when she was just 19, was one of the UK's bestsellers, and she has become one of the world's bestselling artists, with more than 120 million records sold. So I'm looking forward to her shift into movies. Her debut, at the age of 37, in Cry to Heaven will no doubt break box office records.

WE SHOULD all be concerned that the number of schools commemorating the Holocaust has halved in the last three years. In 2023, more than 2,000 secondary schools signed up to events for Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27.

As their MP, I went on a trip to Auschwitz with pupils from my local schools to see the horrors of the Nazis.

It appears the collapse in schools remembering the holocaust comes after the Hamas terror attack on Israel in 2023 and the rise of pro-Palestine marches in the UK. If so, schools and teachers are very much missing the point of remembering the murder of six million Jewish people.

As Sir Ephraim Mirvis, the Chief Rabbi, puts it: "Holocaust Memorial Day is not a platform for political debate. It is not an endorsement of any government, perspective or conflict. It is an act of human memory."

To me it's one of the most important things we need to be reminded of to prevent it ever happening again.

TRUMP'S BLAIR TWITCH PROJECT IN GAZA SHOULD HAVE THE WHOLE WORLD ON EDGE

FOLLOWING Donald Trump's Israel-Gaza ceasefire on October 10, he has now set up a peace board as part of the next phase in rebuilding the area and transitioning to a new administration. So far so good. But it's the name of Sir Tony Blair who'll be sitting on this peace board that concerns me.

He's always fancied himself as a peacekeeper in the Middle East and set himself up as such, but he shattered peace in the region after his invasion of Iraq in 2003 based on a dodgy dossier of so-called weapons of mass destruction. Even Gordon Brown admits he regrets the invasion. Blair has skin as thick as a rhino but his appointment should send shudders across the world.

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Mieka Smiles

Local Matters

WE are a nation of dog lovers. They hijack our emotions with their soulful eyes, floppy ears and adorable antics. Over centuries, they have not just found a way into our homes, but also into our hearts.

I always rolled my eyes at those who called them fur babies. "They're not children!" I'd say. But since we brought home Arthur, our achingly cute dachshund, we've joined the legions of pooch parents, proudly showing off puppy pictures to anyone who cares to humour us. So that's why what I discovered this week made me sick to my stomach.

It was an article about Noel Gallagher's ex-wife Meg Mathews and her crusade to stop medical testing on dogs.

Dogs. In Britain. In 2026.

Beagles are being bred for medical testing in their thousands, kept in cages and then often killed when they're no longer of use to the facility. It shattered my heart to find out the reason beagles are chosen – because, as a breed, they are trusting, docile and easy to handle.

Call me naive but I assumed this nightmarish practice ceased decades ago. As a non-vegan, leather-wearing type, animal activism is very much not in my lane – but reading up on the practice has been chilling.

Nasty

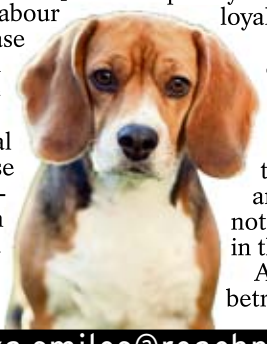
Of course, it's easy to sit at my laptop and point the finger at the nasty people hurting dogs. Scientists and professionals involved say it's a "necessary evil" for the wider good and has advanced treatment for everything from blood transfusions to diabetes and muscular dystrophy.

However, as I dug deeper, I found relying on these beautiful animals is not only horrifying but also yields extremely poor results.

Dogs, obviously, have fundamental biological, genetic and physiological differences from humans – and this is why it's widely reported that between 92% and 96% of the drugs deemed safe and effective in animal testing fail during human clinical trials. There are many more humane methods that give better results.

A petition to the government to ban the practice, signed by more than a quarter of a million people, won a Parliament debate in April last year. In response, Labour has promised to "phase out" the practice and focus on cruelty-free alternatives.

But as long as it's legal to test on dogs, these companies will continue. We need an urgent deadline written in law for its abolition. Dogs trust us completely. To exploit this unwavering loyalty is beyond fathomable.



If we're truly a nation of dog lovers, we cannot turn away.

Write to your MP, put pressure on ministers and tell everyone you know and demand a change now, not at some undefined point in the future.

Anything else is a total betrayal of our best friends.

IF THERE'S one thing that gets my goat (OK, regular readers know there's more than one thing…) it's human behaviour on aeroplanes. The halcyon days of reclining seats, perfectly portioned meals and copious cups of tea are no more. And so now every annoying trait from your fellow passenger seems just that little bit harder to forgive.

I was reminded of this last week when my husband, Chris, committed a key aviation sin. As soon as the touchdown happens, he's one of those over-enthusiastic optimists who leaps from his seat and joins the central aisle like the starting shot of the London Marathon has fired.

I feel like screaming "sit down!" and "you're going absolutely nowhere!".

But instead, I just continue to listen to my audiobook and watch this sad and futile mission. Next time, I suggest you do the same.

THE other day my phone pinged. The notification was to inform me that somebody had looked at my LinkedIn profile: "Oooh! I have a cyber-lurker!". Unfortunately, however, to reveal the LinkedIn-looker I'd have to shell out £29.99 a month.

I'm no skinflint, but I wasn't that curious. I've always been a bit baffled about the social media networking site's main uses, other than lengthy rambles about "exciting new chapters".

So I was astonished to find out that civil servants are spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on LinkedIn subscriptions, climbing to a record high under Rachel Reeves. In fact, the astonishing tab could pay for 80 police officers! My message to Reeves? Pull the plug, now.

mieka.smiles@reachplc.com

Designer and pal Joan Collins

'Master of elegance', Valentino dies at 93

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

THE fashion world is mourning after iconic designer Valentino Garavani died aged 93.

Tributes poured in for the legendary Italian who dressed royals, first ladies and film stars.

Among his glamorous friends and patrons were Princess Diana, Jackie Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor and Joan Collins.

His foundation said: "Valentino Garavani passed away today at his Roman residence, surrounded by his loved ones." His body will lie in state at the foundation HQ before a funeral in the capital on Friday.

Italian PM Giorgia Meloni said her country had lost a "legend".

Luxury

She added: "Valentino, undisputed master of style and elegance and eternal symbol of Italian high fashion. Today Italy loses a legend, but his legacy will continue to inspire generations."

Alexandra Shulman, the former editor-in-chief of British Vogue, said every aspect of Valentino "epitomised glamour and luxury".

She added: "He was one of the last of the great designers of the modern day."

Valentino Clemente Ludovico Garavani was born in 1932 near Milan.

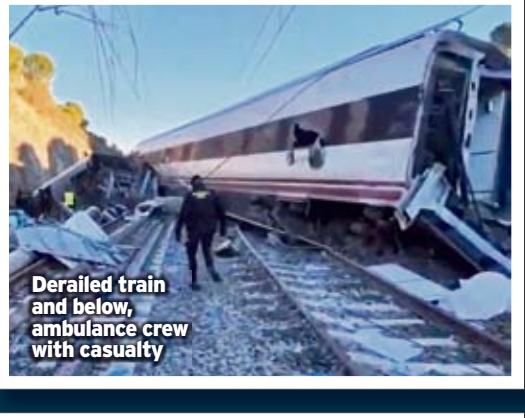
He founded his luxury fashion house in Rome in 1960. High-glamour gowns – often in his trademark "Valentino red" – were fashion show staples for nearly half a century.

Valentino was friends with Jackie Kennedy and made Audrey Hepburn's lace gown for How to Steal a Million. "I know what women want," he once said. "They want to be beautiful."

Scenes of carnage yesterday after train crash that killed 40 people

At least 40 dead in train crash horror

Mystery over cause as human error and speed ruled out



Derailed train and below, ambulance crew with casualty

AT least 40 people have died in a Spanish train crash that has left investigators puzzled.

Human error and speed have been ruled out as causes after a Madrid-bound service derailed and crossed to the opposite tracks, colliding with an oncoming train on Sunday night.

Emergency services treated 122 people, with 43, including four children, still in hospital.

Of those, 12 adults and one child remain in intensive care.

Fire service head Francisco Carmona, said: "We have even had to remove a dead person to be able to reach someone alive.

"It is hard, tricky work."

The death toll, thought to include one of the drivers, is almost certain to rise.

Passenger Lucas Meriako said: "Another train passed us and everything started vibrating. There was a jolt behind us and the feeling that the whole train was going to fall apart.

"The impact shattered windows, displaced luggage and threw people on to the floor. People then started breaking windows to get out."

BY **GILES SHELDRICK**
Chief Reporter

Both trains were under the 155mph speed limit on a straight section of track when they crashed. Alvaro Fernandez Heredia, president of state-funded firm Renfe, which operated one of the trains, said human error had also been discounted as a possible cause.

Baffled

Transport minister Oscar Puente said: "All the railway experts consulted by the government are extremely baffled by the accident."

The working assumption is that either a mechanical fault or infrastructure issue was responsible for the rail crash, Spain's worst in more than a decade.

Rail network operator Adif said tragedy struck at 7.45pm local time around an hour after one train left Malaga on the south coast, heading to Madrid. It derailed and hit the second train, pushing it into an embankment in a remote part of Andalusia. Most of those killed and hurt were in the front carriages of the second train.

They were travelling south from Madrid to Huelva, Andalusia. King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, who are in Greek capital Athens for a royal funeral, said they would return to Spain immediately.

They added: "We extend our most heartfelt condolences to the relatives and loved ones of the dead, as well as our love and wishes for a swift recovery to the injured."

Juanma Moreno, president of the Andalusian regional government, said: "A train carries society – grandparents, children, pregnant women, it's a catastrophe." It is Spain's worst rail crash since a derailment in 2013 in Galicia that left 80 people dead and 140 injured.

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Revoice voice synthesiser

Neck-band device gives voice back after stroke

BY **JANE KIRBY**

A NECK-worn device developed by Cambridge University experts is giving stroke patients back their voices.

The Revoice device is a soft, flexible choker-type necklace that picks up the tiny throat vibrations as patients try to talk, and turns them into speech.

Its AI also infers a patient's emotional state from heart rate, and uses contextual information such as the time of day or weather to produce sentences.

In a small trial with five patients with dysarthria – the difficulty in speaking that can follow a stroke – Revoice got everything right except 4.2% of words and 2.9% of sentences.

Professor Luigi Occhipinti from Cambridge's Department of Engineering, who led the research, said: "We have created a device which, from the point of view of the patient, helps them communicate."

Juliet Bouverie, Stroke Association chief executive, said: "We welcome early-stage research exploring new ways to support stroke survivors."

Alzheimer's test hopes

BY **JANE KIRBY**

A FINGER-prick blood test that could diagnose Alzheimer's disease is being developed.

A trial is now looking at whether three proteins associated with the condition can be found in volunteers' blood before symptoms appear.

If such a test can be developed, it would be cheaper and easier than the current brain scans or lumbar punctures.

Dr Giovanna Lalli of LifeArc, researching alongside the Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation, with support from the UK Dementia Research Institute, said: "Developing cheaper, scalable and more accessible tests is vital."

Online checker that led to my early diagnosis

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**

MARTIN Walsh was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2024 after experiencing pelvic pain and frequent trips to the toilet at night.

The 60-year-old had a family history of the disease so used Prostate Cancer UK's online Risk Checker.

It encouraged him to ask his GP for a PSA blood test.

Martin said: "When I was first diagnosed with prostate cancer, it was a shock.

"Prostate cancer has affected other men in my family – my cousin was diagnosed aged 58, and doctors believe my dad had it when he died – but you don't always think it will affect you too.

"It was using Prostate Cancer UK's Risk Checker that helped me take that next step and request a PSA blood test from my GP, which led to my early diagnosis."

Martin, of Coventry, said the experience had "deepened my outlook on life".

He added: "I feel incredibly lucky, and I'm passionate about spreading awareness of this disease. I want to encourage other men to take their health into their own hands.

"Please take 30 seconds to check your risk factors today using the Risk Checker from Prostate Cancer UK and think about getting a quick test."

You can check your prostate cancer risk at prostatecanceruk.org/risk-checker

Martin Walsh took online risk checker due to family history of prostate cancer

Prostate cancer now most common form of the disease in UK

PROSTATE cancer has overtaken breast cancer to become the UK's most common form of the disease.

Some 64,425 men were diagnosed in 2022, compared to 61,640 breast cancer diagnoses.

The figure was a 24% rise on 2021, when 51,823 men were told they had prostate cancer.

Increased awareness is thought to have driven a 42% increase in diagnoses in the past decade.

But the Prostate Cancer UK charity, which shared the analysis, said further changes to NHS guidance were needed to save more lives.

Men over 50, black or with a family history of the disease are at a higher risk and can request a PSA hormone blood test.

However, guidelines currently prevent GPs proactively speaking to men about their risk and making them aware of the test. The charity's call for a change in guidance is backed by six-time Olympic cycling champion Sir Chris Hoy, who was diagnosed with stage-four prostate cancer in 2023.

BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor

He said: "Prostate cancer is curable if found early. That's why it's vital we get the message out to men to think about their risk and to talk to their GP about a simple blood test to check.

"That way we'll get more men with prostate cancer diagnosed earlier, and we'll save thousands more lives.

"What we need now is action to change the system, to enable more men to be diagnosed earlier and stop them getting the news I got. It shouldn't be only men's responsibility to make these potentially life-saving conversations happen."

Sir Chris wants a change in rules over PSA testing

The charity also highlighted a postcode lottery in PSA testing, with rates highest in the South East and lowest in the North East.

Prostate cancer officially became the most common cancer in England last January, with 58,137 men diagnosed in 2023. Now it is also the most common in Scotland, with 5,608 cases found in 2023.

It remains the second most common after breast cancer in Wales and Northern Ireland and claims more than 12,000 lives each year in the UK.

Chiara De Biase, director of health services, equity and improvement at Prostate Cancer UK, said: "It's unacceptable that the full weight of responsibility still falls on men to understand their risk and talk to their GP about the pros and cons of a PSA test.

"Prostate cancer is now the most common cancer in the UK — but despite this, men are facing deeply unfair inequities across the country, and their experiences vary hugely based on where they live.

Risks

"We urgently need an early detection programme that will address these regional inequities.

"My message to men today is, find 30 seconds to do Prostate Cancer UK's online risk checker. It's free, anonymous and in a few quick questions you will understand your risk and your rights."

FREEDOM FOR UKRAINE

Resilience tent set up in the centre of Kyiv, giving some relief from icy weather; inset, table with toys and books

Dozens seek warmth in lifeline tents

LIFE IN KYIV

JOHN MARONE

Despatch from the frontline

UKRAINIANS traditionally celebrate the winter holidays well into the new year – but bitter frosts have bitten hard into festive spirits as Russian missiles and drones continue to pulverise the embattled nation's power and heating plants.

Rolling blackouts in cold snaps are nothing new in wartime Kyiv, but waves of air assaults have battered the infrastructure to its knees.

President Zelensky declared an energy emergency last week as residents hunkered down in frozen flats or sought warmth and electricity in one of the "resilience points" set up by officials to provide relief.

Kyiv's Left Bank has been hit hard and hosts dozens of orange or grey tents where people forced from their homes can warm up, charge gadgets or sit with others.

Heater

Sergey, an emergency worker who lives in my building, told me: "These tents can accommodate up to 100 people. On the Left Bank they are about 60 to 70% full."

On the Right Bank, I visited one such tent equipped with a heater, hot tea, books, a table and toys.

An emergency helper there said: "Most people come here in the evening. Few stay all night."

But this may change. In line with the situation, the emergencies ministry has relaxed curfews to let people make their way to the resilience points along the city's largely icy streets at any time of night.

Internal affairs minister Ihor Klymenko also set up a phone hotline so people can find the resilience point nearest to their home.

Near mine is a small convenience shop that opens in the faintest of light till late in the evening. Lone employee Lyuba, bundled up in layer upon layer of clothing, said when the lights go out the only thing left working is the cash till.

She added: "It's cold and dark but at least I can still sell things."

Staying home offers no better comfort: Iryna, a young woman who works at a radio station, said she gets up in the middle of the night when the lights go on to wash her long hair then use a hair dryer.

Katya, another of my neighbours, said her friend lives on the 17th floor of a building damaged by a drone attack and has to stay up all night cooking and washing clothes for her family before the power goes off again in the morning.

Vlad, who lives on the seventh floor of my building, told me that he and his friends go to each other's homes depending on who still has power. He added: "We don't have any heat in my flat. It's impossible to just sit there and freeze."

The outages are now so bad the ministry said university lessons will switch online and schools will be closed until February.

Yet despite the emergency measures, power and heat have become a luxury with everything from lifts to coffee at a cafe subject to being shut down without notice.

Even Anna who lives in a relatively warm brick building said the situation is borderline unbearable.

She added: "If I had known in 2022 what we would be facing today, I would not have come back after evacuation."

Pro-Kremlin hackers trying to crash vital organisations

BY **ANAHITA HOSSEIN-POUR**

PRO-Russian hackers are launching cyber attacks aimed at crippling critical UK organisations.

The National Cyber Security Centre – part of the GCHQ spy base – warned "hacktivists" are seeking to disable services and websites.

UK authorities have been urged to review defences and protect against denial-of-service attacks.

DoS strikes bombard sites, causing digital traffic jams that slow operations or crash them completely. Whole systems can be hit, costing organisations time and money to recover. NCSC director of national resilience Jonathon Ellison said: "We continue to see Russian-aligned hacktivist groups targeting UK organisations and although DoS attacks may be technically simple, their impact can be significant.

"These attacks can prevent people accessing essential services they depend on every day."

The NCSC says a group called NoName057(16) has tried frequent DoS attacks on local government.

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Dance star Oti's sunny intermission on movie week

Oti's Latin loose as head judge

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

STRICTLY star Oti Mabuse brings the drama to movie week on Ireland's version of the show – where she's the new head judge.

Oti, 35, whirled around in her showstopping yellow dress while warming up for Dancing with the Stars. She was a favourite pro on BBC1's Strictly, lifting the Glitterball twice – first with Emmerdale actor Kelvin Fletcher in 2019, then with comic Bill Bailey in 2020, right.

Oti went on to judge ITV's Dancing on Ice but returned to her first love of ballroom earlier this month. She said of Sunday's movie special: "Grab the popcorn, feel all the feelings and let the magic unfold."

Dancing with the Stars Ireland is available on YouTube.

It's Deadly in Paradise

Show stars' centipede fears

BY **ED GLEAVE**

DEATH In Paradise stars have a killer in their midst during filming – in the form of a lethal centipede.

The poisonous bugs – called scolopendras – are regularly spotted on the hit drama's set on Caribbean island Guadeloupe.

Lead actor Don Gilet, 59, said: "There is a bug we often see when we're filming…a scolopendra. They have got venom and they kill.

"People have found them in their beds and in their shoes. I have seen a few of them already.

"I always do checks so I don't get any surprises!"

Bitten

Don, who plays detective Mervin Wilson, added: "These things are venomous, so when we see one on set, people who are from the UK are running around like it's Nosferatu chasing them. But the locals act like it's just an ant."

Don insists he isn't worried about being bitten by a scolopendra.

He said: "If the locals are not screaming about it, I will think, 'They're not that scary'. But I've not come in contact with any wild beasts on set so far." Don isn't bothered by any of the island's animals, but does struggle with the noises they make.

He said: "I have an issue with how loud it gets at night. There's quite a chorus going on. I'd rather they didn't make so much noise."

● *The new series starts on January 30 at 9pm on BBC One.*

Don in the show and, inset, a scolopendra

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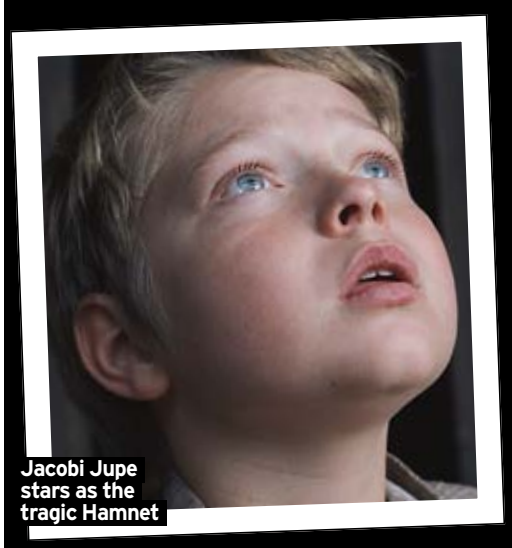
MUCH ADO ABOUT HAMNET

Paul Mescal portrays Shakespeare


Jacobi Jupe stars as the tragic Hamnet

It's set to dominate Oscar nominations this week, but is filmmaker Chloé Zhao's award-winning tearjerker about the tragic death of Shakespeare's son an emotionally overwrought piece of fiction?

EXCLUSIVE
By Peter Sheridan
in Los Angeles

CAN a seven-Kleenex emotionally draining movie about Shakespeare's bereaved family four centuries ago sweep the top Oscars this year? When the Academy Award nominations are announced on Thursday, the heart-wrenching British drama Hamnet is expected to challenge Leonardo DiCaprio's American thriller One Battle After Another for dominance.

Hamnet is proving the movie to beat. It captured the best drama award at the Golden Globes earlier this month, where its co-star Jessie Buckley took best actress honours, and snared multiple nominations from every awards group.

Based on the bestselling 2020 novel by author Maggie O'Farrell, the film explores how a young William Shakespeare was so devastated by the death of his 11-year-old son Hamnet from bubonic plague that his marriage almost collapsed, and he poured his grief into writing his tragic masterpiece Hamlet.

"It's not nothing to call a play and a tragic hero after your son – it speaks volumes," O'Farrell said in a 2020 interview.

Gladiator II star Paul Mescal portrays the tortured Bard of Avon, and Buckley his wife Anne Hathaway – not the star of Les Miserables, but an earlier Anne – called Agnes in the film.

But will moviegoers appreciate that the film, co-written by O'Farrell and its Oscar-winning director Chloé Zhao, is not a historical documentary but rather a beautifully-crafted work of literary fiction?

Shakespeare's plays and sonnets are so timeless and ubiquitous, it is tempting to think that we understand all there is to know about him. Yet, surprisingly for such a prolific writer, there is not one letter, diary or journal that survives to illuminate the dark shadows of his psyche.

Hollywood has done its share of myth-making to fill that gap.

Shakespeare in Love won the 1999 best picture Oscar imagining how a torrid affair with a wealthy merchant's daughter, played by Gwyneth Paltrow, inspired him to pen Romeo and Juliet. Kenneth Branagh's 2018 drama All Is True imagined Shakespeare's final years, while on the small screen Tim Curry starred in the 1978 ITV series Will Shakespeare. And the 2017 series Will depicted a young Shakespeare's first forays into London's theatre scene.

Yet Shakespeare, whose plays reveal so much of the human heart and mind, remains a mystery, an undiscovered country. His emotional life is a blank canvas, and over the centuries a lot of paint has been splashed around trying to bring him to life.

One of the few known facts about Shakespeare is that his last will and testament bequeathed to his wife "my second-best bed".

For more than a century, shaped by patriarchal misogyny, many believed the bequest reflected a froideur in their marriage, imagining that Shakespeare felt trapped into marrying a pregnant Hathaway, whom he loathed.

Scholars now believe the bequest was a loving gesture – his home's "best bed" would have been a showpiece for guests, while the runner-up would have been their marital bed, symbolic of their long relationship. It is an interpretation that reflects contemporary faith in the power of love as a driving force in art and life.

The film conflates the names of Hamlet and Hamnet, and historians agree that the spelling of names was a fluid affair in Elizabethan England. Hamlet would have been interchangeable with Hamnet, and Anne with Agnes. Even the Bard signed his own name using spellings including Shakspeare, Shakspere and Shaksper, historical documents reveal.

The facts we have are few. His first appearance in records came on April 26, 1564, when baptised at the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon. His exact birthdate is unknown, though traditionally it is commonly celebrated on April 23. The son of glove-maker John Shakespeare and his wife Mary Arden, records show that from the 1590s he was an actor and playwright, part-owner of London's Globe and Blackfriars theatres, and purchased a home in Stratford.

HE WAS around 18 years old when he wed an already-pregnant 26-year-old Hathaway in 1582, according to their marriage licence. They had three children: Susanna in 1583, and two years later twins Judith and Hamnet, who died in 1596.

Though the date of Shakespeare's death is unknown, he was buried at the Holy Trinity

Jessie and Paul at the Golden Globes event

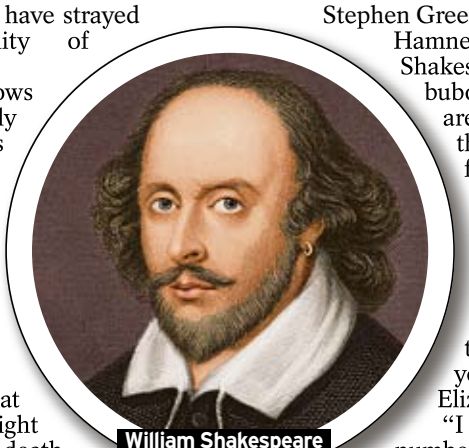
Hamnet, Susanna and Judith in the new movie

Jessie Buckley, centre, as Agnes in Hamnet

Church in Stratford on April 25, 1616, presumably having died two or three days prior.

As beautifully moving – or some might say emotionally overwrought – as the film Hamnet appears, it may have strayed far from the reality of Shakespeare's inner life.

The movie shows Shakespeare emotionally shattered by his son's death, yet there is no evidence of the playwright's grief in the historical record. In the late 16th century one third of children died before the age of 10, so infant mortality was commonplace.


William Shakespeare inspired many myths

Hamnet imagines that the tormented playwright was inspired by his son's death to write Hamlet, with its themes of mortality and loss.

But far from being consumed by melancholy following his son's death, the Bard penned several comedies, including The Merry Wives of Windsor, Much Ado About Nothing, and As You Like It, as well as dramatic history plays. He did not pen Hamlet until four years after Hamnet's demise. "Whether in the wake of Hamnet's death Shakespeare was suicidal or serene, he threw himself into his work," says historian Stephen Greenblatt.

Hamnet also suggests that Shakespeare's son died of bubonic plague, yet there are no records indicating that the real Hamnet fell victim to the disease. "It isn't actually known what the real Hamnet Shakespeare died of," admits O'Farrell. "There was no shortage of anything that could kill you, unfortunately, in Elizabethan times.

"I mean, there are any number of very dangerous diseases. You could even have just cut your finger and then you could have died of sepsis a couple of days later."

Indeed, death records from Stratford at the time of Hamnet's passing show none of the usual cluster of deaths that accompanied the highly infectious bubonic plague. Anne Hathaway is portrayed in the film as a clairvoyant mystic healer, yet there is nothing in the historical record to support that. O'Farrell portrayed her as a seer to explain why she would marry a "penniless, wageless 18-year-old… maybe she saw something in him".

Perhaps more shockingly, rather than being inspired by his son's death, the drama Hamlet shows every evidence of being inspired by an earlier play which Shakespeare may have ripped off and improved upon.

The tale of a prince feigning madness, killing a hidden spy, and his mother quickly marrying his father's usurper, first emerged in the 13th century, and by 1570 had added a melancholy hero. Hamlet also borrowed elements from Thomas Kyd's late-16th century play The Spanish Tragedy, including a vengeful ghost and a play-within-a-play to expose a murderer. By 1596 a drama titled Hamlet was playing on the London stage, four years before Shakespeare's The Tragedy of Hamlet debuted.

Yet Hamnet's flights of fancy are not as wild as the theories that persisted for years that a glove-maker's son would have been too uneducated to write Shakespeare's literary gems, and that the actual author was a rival contemporary playwright such as Sir Francis Bacon, or a nobleman trying to disguise his identity.

Director and co-screenwriter Chloé Zhao confessed to Vanity Fair that the film navigates a liminal region between Elizabethan reality and Hollywood make-believe, saying: "The veil between past and future, real life and fiction, was very, very thin."

AUDIENCES and critics alike are eager to embrace Hamnet's elegy to love, loss, grief, marriage and parenthood: the emotional underpinnings of Shakespeare that history neglected to record. And though the Bard of Avon told us little about himself, through his plays he told centuries of theatregoers so much about themselves.

"This haunting and evocative film may not reveal much about Shakespeare and his world," says Professor James Shapiro, from Columbia University in New York, "but it has a great deal to say about our own, and what we so badly want to believe about the source and transformative power of the greatest art."

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Tragic victim Victoria Hall, 17

Mum dies as girl's alleged killer is tried

BY **ANDREW YOUNG**

THE mother of a teenage girl found dead in a ditch 25 years ago has died just before serial killer Steve Wright is to be tried for her murder.

Lorinda Hall, 70, died in Ipswich last month. A funeral notice described her as a much-loved wife, mum and "Nanna".

Her daughter Victoria, 17, had vanished while walking home from a Felixstowe nightclub in September 1999. Her body was found 25 miles away five days later.

Wright, 67, is serving a whole-life sentence for the murder of five women around Ipswich in 2006. He has denied the abduction and murder of Victoria, and attempting to kidnap a woman the next day.

His Old Bailey trial is to begin on February 2.

Redhead gambled cash away

£800k theft boss left firm facing ruin

BY **PAUL JEEVES**

A FAMILY firm nearly went bust when its accounts manager stole almost £800k and blew it all on gambling.

Susanne Redhead's haul put friends' and colleagues' jobs at risk.

Bosses at Pure Panel Management, Newcastle, found she made over 400 payments to herself totalling £767,272, including a £363,000 "Christmas bonus".

When rumbled, she told her former friends: "I knew this was coming. I've been gambling."

MD James Gillam said: "She decided to steal every last penny from the company that has looked after her for the last 15 years."

Redhead, 53,of Newcastle, admitted theft and was jailed for three years.

De Villiers jabbed at store boss before stick came at him

Brave shopkeeper sticks one on thief

Cowardly knife robber fled after petrified victim hit back

Police mugshot of shop raider De Villiers

CCTV footage captured the moment a shopkeeper grabbed his walking stick and saw off a robber who came at him with a large knife.

Eksteen De Villiers, 27 entered the convenience store with the blade and demanded money from the till.

He then lunged towards the plucky shop boss, who feared he would die but gave him what for with his stick.

Cowardly De Villiers – who tried to hide his face with a balaclava and hood – repeated his demand for cash but fled, grabbing two bottles of spirits.

Police identified him from security video which showed him without his disguise before entering the shop.

He was arrested and officers seized the knife and bottles of alcohol.

Clothing matching that worn by the robber was found in a wooded area near the shop near Lydney, Glos.

Gloucester crown court heard from the shopkeeper after homeless De Villiers admitted robbery and possessing a blade in a public place.

The hero said in his victim statement: "For the first three nights after the incident, I didn't sleep at all.

BY **FILIPA GASPAR**

"Every time I closed my eyes I had flashbacks.

"I was having nightmares for about two weeks after the incident. I see the incident on replay in my nightmares.

"The knife stands out the most as it was large and it came so close to stabbing me. I truly thought I was going to die that day.

Panic

"When I first saw the knife, I saw images of me being stabbed with it. I had no choice but to fight him off.

"It was really difficult and I fought him with everything I had. I feel that I am lucky to be alive."

He also detailed his trauma months on from the robbery in October: "When I am in the shop on my own, I suffer quite badly from panic attacks.

"I can't have my back to the door in the shop, it makes me feel uneasy. When someone comes into the shop and I don't know who they are, I get on edge and I don't like being in this situation."

De Villiers was handed a five-year jail sentence by the court.

He was also given a 10-year restraining order preventing him from entering the area.

Speaking after sentencing, Sergeant Nick Wheeler said: "This was a nasty robbery that has left both the victim and those living in this community feeling incredibly vulnerable.

"De Villiers acted in a vicious and frightening manner. This sentence reflects the seriousness with which this attack has been taken by us and the court. We will not tolerate the behaviour of anyone who feels they can subject our communities to this level of fear and intimidation.

"I hope that De Villiers will use this time to reflect on his life choices, while it gives respite to those who have endured his actions."

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By **Marc Baker**

CAPTAIN Roy Keane's bust-up with Ireland manager Mick McCarthy ahead of the 2002 World Cup is the stuff of legend, so Éanna Hardwicke knew he had big football boots to fill.

The Normal People actor, playing Keane in a film about the infamous Saipan incident, says playing the hot-headed hardman petrified him.

Éanna, 29, added of his preparation: "Roy's side of this story is so well documented – it was pretty much live-streamed as the row happened. He gave interviews and then wrote two books on it all.

"I felt I had enough to go on so my preparation was absorbing everything.

"I locked myself in my bedroom. It was my brother's attic at the time and I ended up talking to myself for four weeks.

"But at some point you have to forget the public person and their persona. The script was great and showed the private side to Roy you never see in the sporting arena.

"I guess it was all about going, 'What would you do if you were in that situation?' At the same time you have got to embody it in your own way."

The warts-and-all movie, which opens in cinemas on Friday, is named Saipan after the tiny island to which the Irish team were flown to prepare for their World Cup campaign.

Keane had a very public, very bitter disagreement with McCarthy, reportedly being furious at the training conditions, strategy, travel arrangements, diet and McCarthy's competence.

Éanna with Saipan co-star Steve Coogan

A SUBSEQUENT interview with Keane in the Irish press sparked a major fall-out at the camp, where the tough-talking footballer is said to have delivered an angry tirade at McCarthy.

In front of his teammates, he apparently told him to "stick your World Cup up your arse" before storming to the airport and flying back to Ireland – although McCarthy later claimed he sent Keane home.

The incident caused a huge controversy in Irish society over who was to blame and Keane would not play for his country again until 2004 after McCarthy stepped down as manager.

Coogan as manager McCarthy

Éanna was just six when the Saipan incident dominated the 2002 World Cup, hosted by Japan and South Korea, but even he remembers the impact.

The Cork lad says: "I was aware of the events. This row has been so mythologised. I remember the World Cup and the memories are very vivid. I remember every satirist and every comedian at the time had a bit of Saipan in their act. I knew of Roy Keane, he was a towering figure in Cork and it was a huge source of pride for Cork. People said he brought disgrace to his country but he did it because he was livid."

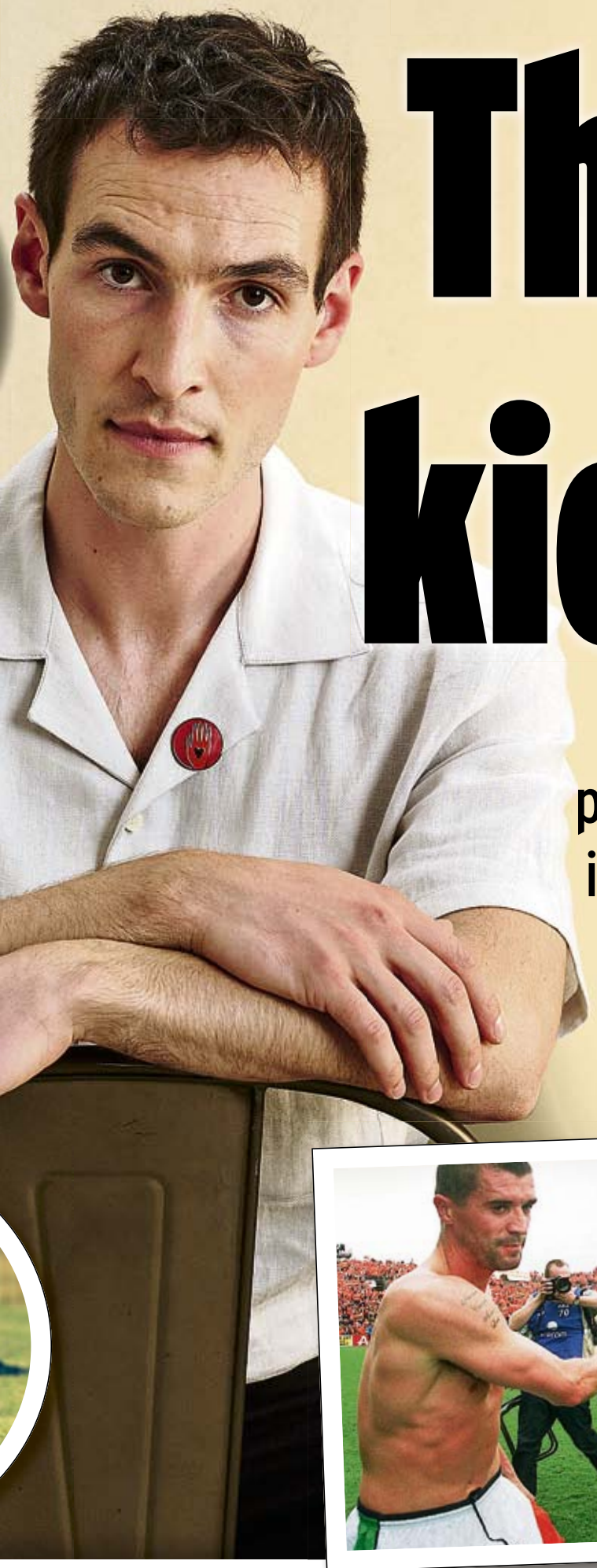
The movie, which also stars Steve Coogan, 60, as Mick McCarthy, documents the funny side to the infamous dispute too. Keane brands Ireland's base-camp hotel as being as bad as the one in BBC sitcom Fawlty Towers.

The 90-minute film also shows how Keane stood up for his team over travel arrangements. He was furious to discover they had to make do with business class seats on flights while officials from the Football Association

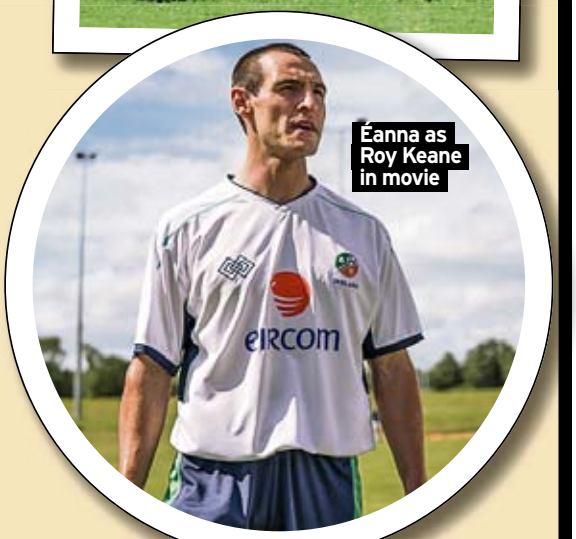
As Silas in The Doll Factory

The big kick-off

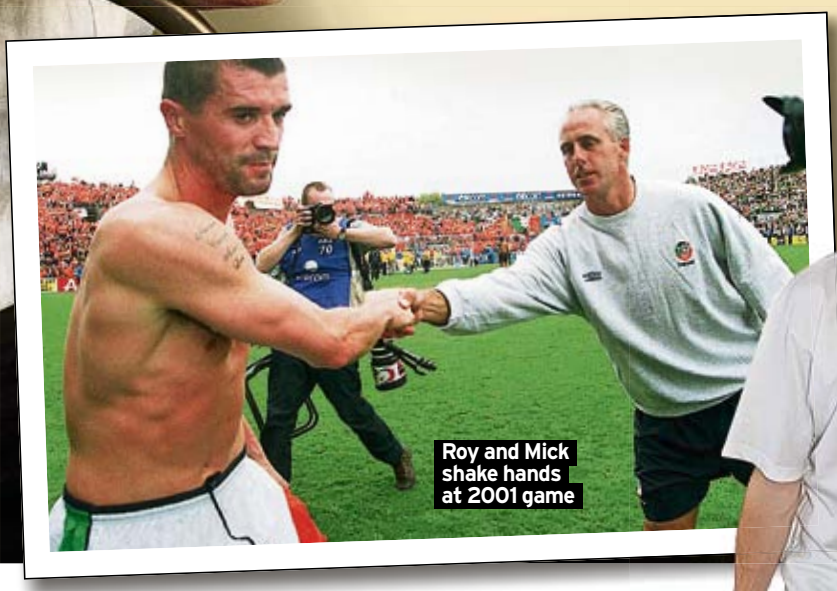
Éanna Hardwicke on playing Ireland's Roy Keane in a film about the bust-up that sent him packing from the 2002 World Cup



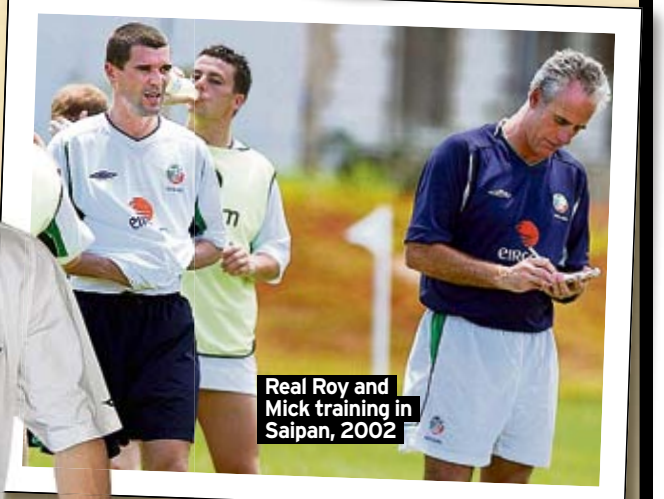
Roy playing in 2002 World Cup qualifier



Éanna as Roy Keane in movie



Roy and Mick shake hands at 2001 game



Real Roy and Mick training in Saipan, 2002

Keane at the airport in 2002 as he storms out. *Below*, the film recreation

of Ireland flew first class. But although he got to play the story from Keane's point of view, Éanna admits he comes down on McCarthy's side of the row. He says: "I was a huge fan of Roy before the film and more so after the movie.

"But I think because of the soul of the movie, I am more of Mick's persuasion. It is not a head-to-head of ideologies. It was about two very different approaches to the game and to life.

"I have always had more sympathy for people who have that holistic approach and see the picture a bit broader, like Mick does." Of being a little star-struck at working with Coogan, Éanna says: "I did circle Steve for a few weeks and he did come to me and said, 'I see you are finding your head space so do what you need to. I am here if you need anything'."

Éanna got the acting bug aged 11, when he started going to youth theatre at the Gaiety School of Acting in Cork. In 2009, he landed a part in Conor McPherson's horror movie The Eclipse as a child.

He made his television debut in the US Superman spin-off series Krypton but his big break came in 2020 when he landed the role of Rob Hegarty in the BBC Three series Normal People alongside Paul Mescal. It was BBC iPlayer's most streamed show of 2020 and Éanna says: "I expected it to work, but you can never account for how it catches on and captures people's imagination.

"You can never predict that, and I especially didn't predict a pandemic as well. That was going to make the show very poignant for people."

It was only on leaving his home after the pandemic that Éanna discovered how famous he had become, but he says he is more interested in the work than the fame.

Éanna, whose other roles have included Silas in Paramount's The Doll Factory in 2023, adds: "If people see the work that you're doing and want to talk about that, that's a really amazing thing. If people connect to the work or are moved by it, that still blows my mind every time."

● *Saipan is in cinemas from Friday.*

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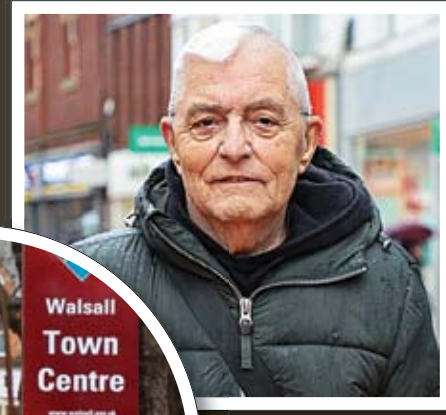
Deprived town where life is like an episode of Shameless

Locals 'scared to go out at night'

BY **ADAM DUTTON**



Fly-tipping and boarded up house, top right, in Walsall; left from top, Vanessa Terry, Mary Davis, Alan Sharratt

RESIDENTS of Britain's most deprived town say living there resembles a "real-life episode of Shameless".

Walsall, in the West Midlands, ranked bottom of an annual survey of places to live.

Locals complain the homeless earn more money than they do by begging outside Wetherspoons.

Once the centre of the leather trade, its inhabitants feel like they are "living in a war-zone" with many too scared to go out at night.

Feral youths, gang violence and drug addicts are said to have made streets no-go zones, even in daytime, while one suburb is dubbed "Britain's roughest estate".

Photos show how the town has declined, with fly-tipping, empty shops and boarded-up houses.

Residents say the town used to boast major retailers and independent stores, but has steadily gone downhill in the past 20 years.

Daniel Briars, 40, said: "I know a lad who runs a market stall and some days he takes home less than £100. I've spoken to homeless people who earn more than that by begging outside Spoons.

"This town used to be buzzing. Day or night it was thriving. Now look around – its vape shops, charity shops or empty shops."

One resident who lives on the infamous Blakenall estate – previously branded Britain's roughest – said Walsall deserved the moniker of the worst place in the country.

He said: "It does deserve the rating, it's horrible. I've been here 40 years. It used to be okay but now it's gone so much downhill.

Frightened

"It's rubbish and drugs which are the issue. No wonder no one wants to live here. This is worse than Shameless [a hit Channel 4 comedy drama series set on a deprived housing estate], it's honestly terrible here."

Walsall was also named second-least healthy high street and third-worst job market in the Good Cities Index.

The index is based on 12 categories including job availability, skill level of the working population and affordability of housing

One market trader, who gave his name as David, said: "I was born in Walsall and it's gone downhill. It's in a state, full of drinkers and beggars. A lot of people have stopped coming, especially old people, they get frightened to come to the town.

"People here don't want to work, they get their payments and just pinch from the shops.

"Some days it's like a fighting ring at the fountain. The council don't turn it on as people would probably just drown in it."

Grandad-of-two Alan Sharratt, 79, said: "It used to be a fantastic thriving town. Now there's more empty shops than being used. It started getting worse 25 years ago. I think unemployment is the main driving force. I don't know what the centre is like of a night time, I wouldn't dream of going there with the risks."

Shopper Sam is moving to Poland to escape the area, claiming she feels unsafe. She said: "I live and was born in Walsall and 20 or 30 years ago it was much different, the area was thriving.

"Since the mass immigration came in it's been going down. I'm an Asian woman, and I'm not racist, but a lot of people have come here and aren't working. I only come into town for what I need, I don't feel safe living here."

Vanessa Terry, 64, has lived in Blakenall for over 40 years, seeing the area go "from good to bad."

Walsall residents claim life there is like dysfunctional TV comedy-drama Shameless

She said: "Our estate was ranked the worst in England, which says something. We've got good neighbours and we all try to help each other. When I moved here it was all OAPs, it was lovely and quiet."

Community worker Jayne, 38, said a lack of amenities and violence made the ranking unsurprising. She added: "I go into schools and teach first aid. What I found really grim is that we had Year 6's having anti-stabbing ambassadors to tackle knife crime. These are kids who are nine or 10 years old."

But Mary Davis, 83, who moved to the town from Ireland as a teenager, is proud to live in Walsall. She said: "I've never been mugged or had my purse stolen or anything. My daughter was in a Galway in a posh store in Ireland and had her bag stolen, so it's hard to judge.

"There are shops closing down, the ones I used to like. But there's still shops I love going into."

Cllr Adrian Andrew, Walsall Council's deputy leader, said it was "time to change the conversation about Walsall" and pointed to redevelopments in the area.

He insisted the town is "on the rise", and added: "The challenges we face are not unique but what sets us apart is the determination and ambition that's driving our transformation and creating positive change. Transformative projects are already underway...

"These aren't just plans; they're happening now and Walsall's future is bright."

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For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

YOUR ANSWERS

Beginner	7	x8	+16	÷12	+59	÷5	-4	SQUARE IT	-54	
Intermediate	63	4/9 OF THIS	+144	75% OF THIS	-46	x3	+15	÷8	-14	
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PHONE POLL RESULTS

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Do you agree with Robert Jenrick that the Conservative Party is broken?

YES: 64%
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SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

1				4			2	
3				9		8		6
		5			2			7
5	3		7			9		1
		2	8	6	9	5		
9		8			1		4	2
8			2			1		
2				1				4
	6		4	5			9	8

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurry.
For today's solution call:
09071 812 571
(Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge)
For extra clues call:
09013 225 602
(Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge)

MORE PUZZLES – PULLOUT

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

4	3	8	9	7	1	5	6	2
7	9	6	2	4	5	1	8	3
1	5	2	3	6	8	7	4	9
2	4	3	8	5	7	9	1	6
8	6	7	4	1	9	3	2	5
9	1	5	6	2	3	8	7	4
6	7	1	5	9	4	2	3	8
5	8	4	7	3	2	6	9	1
3	2	9	1	8	6	4	5	7

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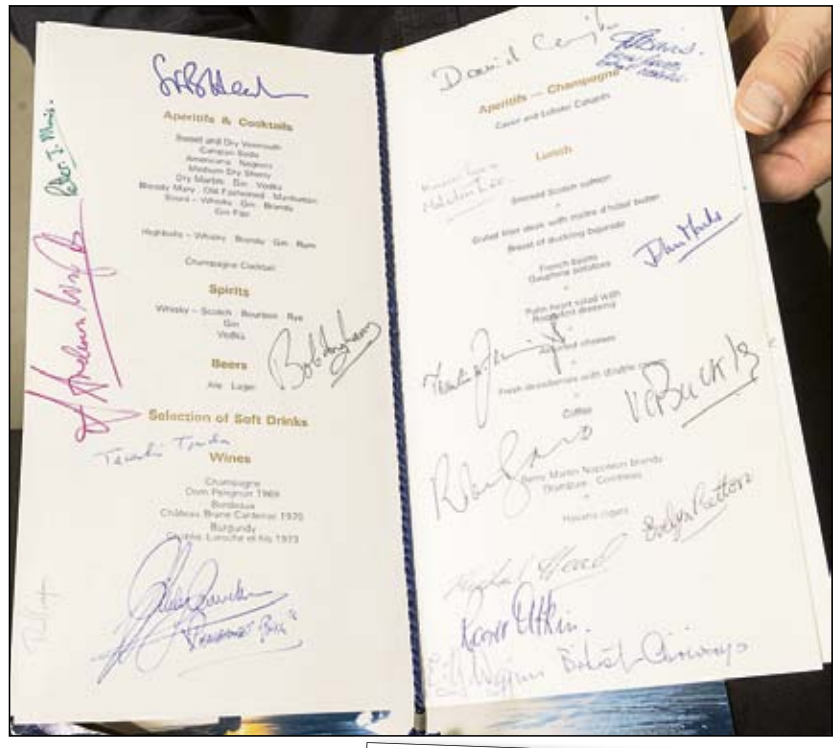

A taste of Concorde's glory days

First flight menu was signed by passengers on the BA plane, above, which is now in a museum

BY **LUCINDA CAMERON**

A "UNIQUE" hoard of mementos from the first British Airways Concorde flight – including a menu signed by passengers – has been donated to a museum housing the supersonic plane.

Businessman Anthony Hopkins was a passenger on the historic January 21, 1976 trip, jetting from London to Bahrain, while an Air France Concorde flew from Paris to Rio de Janeiro.

He saved dozens of items from the aircraft including tickets, luggage tags, promotional material and the onboard safety card. He had the in-flight menu signed by almost everyone on board, including broadcaster Peter Sissons.

Now he has gifted the treasure trove to the National Museum of Flight at East Fortune Airfield, East Lothian, where the first British Concorde to fly passengers is housed. Ian Brown, assistant curator of aviation there, said it was "amazing" to receive the "absolutely unique" donation.

He added: "There are only 100 people that got to be on that first flight as the passengers, so having this material from one of them was just amazing. There is so much detail in there."

The donation comes on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the inaugural commercial flight of Concorde, which could fly at twice the speed of sound.

The Crusader Fighting for your rights

By MAISHA FROST

Customer's bed repairs bid falls flat

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS: The firm that originally sold the bed went into administration

A MUM found herself without cover and furious after the frame of the stylish king size bed she had bought fell apart.

Christine McKenzie came to Crusader last month after getting nowhere about the £700 purchase from furniture company Made.com in 2022. Shortly after, the struggling online retailer was placed in administration, effectively legal limbo, until a buyer was found or it folded.

Then Next stepped in, buying the brand and website but not assuming liabilities, like existing orders. The business now trades under the Made.com brand as part of the retail giant's group.

Fairness suggests Christine may have had a case for some return on her outlay but the time involved, the sequence of events and complex company laws have worked against her. "I was told a repair would be difficult but I thought my complaint might have a chance," says Christine.

"But I bought the bed before the administration situation and Next taking over. By the time my problem arose, I'd missed the claim deadline."

Next told Christine it was unable to help her and when we asked it to consider a goodwill gesture, it didn't respond. Customers now buying from Made.com as part of Next are covered by current consumer protection rules.

● *Name has been changed*

AS TOUGH times continue for retailers, it's worth customers wising up to what's involved in trying to recover debt if they're a creditor.

Andrew Hook, partner at Begbies Traynor (begbies-traynorgroup.com) – a leading expert in company insolvency and restructuring – advises to first understand the difference between administration, where a company can be rescued or remain through new ownership, or closure through liquidation.

"If you are a creditor you will be contacted by administrators or liquidators," Hook says. "If you have a defective product from a firm in administration or that has ceased trading, receiving a refund is unlikely.

"When a company is bought out of administration, unless a specific deal is struck, obligations, warranties and guarantees held by the firm in administration are not usually transferred to the new owner. These may be held by a third party, so it is worth checking whether coverage still stands.

"Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act protects purchases over £100 on a credit card, so you may be able to claim money back on faulty products or transactions on goods and services not received by a liquidated business. For debit and credit card transactions, you may be able to make a chargeback claim through your provider." He also warns to beware scammers impersonating authorities and offering creditors unrealistic and unlawful opportunities.

If you want help with a problem or wish to applaud good service, we will do our best to help. We can't always promise a reply but please contact The Crusader, Daily Express, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP. Email: crusader@express.co.uk. Only send document copies, not originals. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, thank you.

Winter Sale

Reader Offer in partnership with Yimbly.com

INSTANT HOT WATER DISPENSER

Enjoy hot water instantly with this compact hot water dispenser, ideal for home or office use. Choose your preferred temperature from 40–100°C and select from seven volume options for precise control. The 2.7L removable tank reduces refills, while the included water filter ensures clean, great-tasting water. Touch controls make it easy to operate, and the auto-lock adds safety. A drip tray keeps your worktop tidy. Fast, convenient, and reliable, it's perfect for tea, coffee, and everyday hot water needs.

- Easy to use touchscreen & LCD display
- Volume settings from 100ml to 400ml
- Temperature settings from 40-100°C
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- Compact size: H25.5 x W15.5 x D31.5cm

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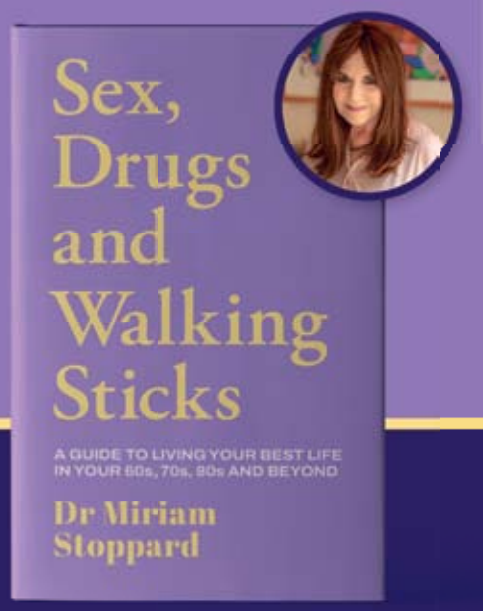
Trustpilot

Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard



AMAZON

ON SALE FROM ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS AND AMAZON

Winter Sale

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2-IN-1 HEATED SCARF WITH HEATED POCKETS

Stay warm outdoors with the Sash & Bloom Heated Scarf. Made from soft fleece with built-in heat pads, it keeps your neck and hands cosy wherever you go. Fast-heat technology warms to 55°C within minutes, and three adjustable settings let you choose your comfort. The 5000mAh rechargeable power bank allows on-the-go warmth and can charge your devices at the same time. Lightweight and practical, the power bank is removable for easy machine washing, making it perfect for daily use.

- Keeps your neck and hands warm with cosy, built-in pockets
- Warms up in 30-60 seconds
- Auto shut-off after 3 hours
- Machine washable
- Includes 5000mAh power bank

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- FRIDAY SHOPPING DEALS & REVIEWS
- SATURDAY TRAVEL, GARDENING & FOOD
- SUNDAY TRAVEL, GARDENING & REVIEWS

FASHION GET THE LOOK

Compiled by **GRACE SALMON**

Winter whites

From cosy knits to casualwear, white proves it's anything but boring this season

Jumper £40
Trousers £36
COTTON TRADERS

Jacket £22.50
Gilet £35
Shorts £14
F&F

Top £16
Trousers £15
BONMARCHÉ

Blanket coat £220
RIVER ISLAND

SHOPPING & PETS

32 Shopping
34 Pets
37 TV Guide
46 Your Letters
PLUS Horoscopes
PLUS Puzzles

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Jumper £42
Jeans £35
Shoes £39
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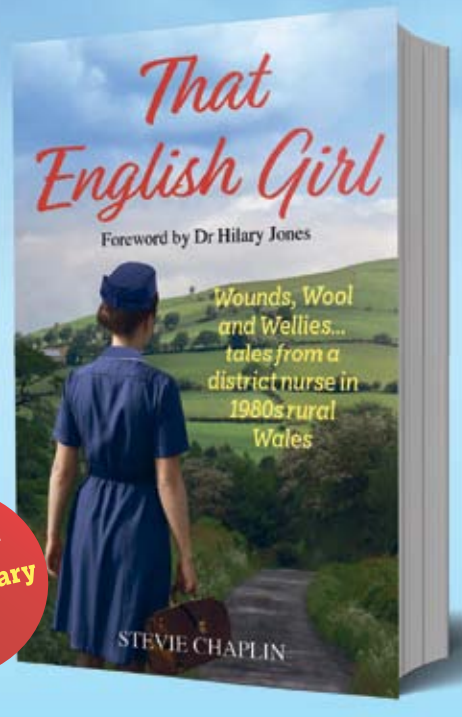
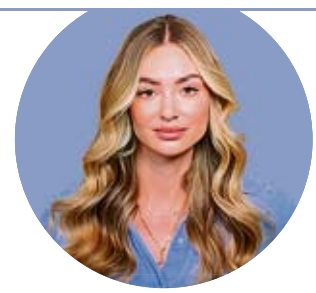
TALES OF A DISTRICT NURSE IN 1980s RURAL WALES

She arrived as a stranger in a different land. She emerged wiser with great friends - and an incredible recipe for Welsh cakes!


That English Girl
Foreword by Dr Hilary Jones
Wounds, Wool and Wellies... tales from a district nurse in 1980s rural Wales
STEVIE CHAPLIN

Foreword by ITV's Dr Hilary Jones

ON SALE NOW IN ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS AND AMAZON.



SHOPPING YOUR NEXT BUY

Edited by **ZOE CRIPPS**

MOST WANTED

EMBER COLD TUMBLER

This £39.95 keep cup is designed for people who take their iced drinks seriously. The double-wall, temperature-resistant glass keeps drinks colder for longer while reducing condensation. Made from durable borosilicate glass, it's easy to clean and keeps flavours tasting pure, while the clever two-way lid makes sipping simple, whether you're at your desk or on the move.

TRIED & TESTED REVIEW

LUSTRE RENEW PRO LED MASK

Shopping lead Zoe says: "January feels like the perfect time to invest in my skin, and this LED mask has been a game-changer. Its semi-flexible, contouring design fits my face perfectly, and the tri-light technology – red, blue, and near-infrared LEDs I can personalise through the Lustre app – makes each session feel tailored to my skin's needs. It's lightweight, wireless, and after a couple of weeks, my complexion already looks brighter and more even." (£449.99, Boots)

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK

Chocolate Side Stripe Trouser, £22.50 **F&F**

Premium Short Scarf Coat, £55 **F&F**

Olivia Burton Watch, £99 **ERNEST JONES**

BB Foundation Stick, £12.99 **H&M**

Golden Barley Classic Candle, £56 **JO MALONE**

Silver Tin of Grind Coffee, £9.95 **GRIND**

Luminous Face Wash, £39.99 **VOSHBON**

Pack of Belts, £16 **COTTON TRADERS**

Knitted Hoodie, £89 **ALBARAY**

Adele Peat Handbag, £109 **LUELLA GREY**

TREND REPORT

Blowdry brushes. They're everywhere right now because they make styling effortless, giving smoothness and volume in one simple step. No matter your age or hair type, they offer an easy way to get voluminous hair without spending ages in front of the mirror.

JUST MAKE A WISH AND GLOW

Amika Blowout Babe Thermal Brush, £95
Designed for use on dry hair, it delivers bouncy volume and soft curls with a polished, salon-style finish – no skill required. The heated ceramic barrel smooths, adds shine and tames frizz, making it quicker, easier and far more controlled than a traditional blowout.

BLOW WITH THE FLOW IN STYLE

Clara Air-Glow Styling Brush, £199.99
This uses smart airflow and gentle heat to style evenly from the inside of the brush, so your hair looks smooth and polished without feeling fried. The medium round brush works on any hair length, and there's no need to think about what temperature to set it to, as there's just one.

TOP 5

ACCENT CUSHIONS

Cushions are a quick and affordable way to brighten up your living room, and these are our top picks this January...

OLIVER BONAS VELVET STRIPE CUSHION COVER *£29.50*
The Wicked movie made pink and green the most coveted colour combination for homeware.

HOMESENSE PINK AND RED CUSHION *£14*
A red colour theme isn't just for Valentine's Day – this cushion pairs perfectly with neutrals.

DUNELM GOOD VIBES SCALLOP SQUARE CUSHION *£14*
Scallop detailing is a top trend for 2026, and this fun find will instantly make your sofa look more modern.

MATALAN FRILL EDGE CUSHION *£13*
Butter yellow makes way for a brighter and more cheerful buttercup this year, so get involved in the trend with this find.

HABITAT ABSTRACT CREWEL CUSHION *£16*
Pops of orange and green add an expensive edge to otherwise muted colour schemes.

PAMPERED PETS

Our vet **DAVID GRANT** *works his magic*

Dog's disturbing cycle

Q My rescue dog is now 18 months old. He is well behaved at home but has developed a worrying habit. He seems to enjoy chasing cyclists and I cannot take him anywhere near them. He doesn't try to bite but jumps up at them. Why does he do this, could he grow out of it and if not, where can I get help?

A This is a very common problem, especially in young rescue dogs. It is possible that your dog missed out on the early puppy socialisation period around two to four months, with calm exposure to bicycles. Now that he is adolescent, he will be healthy, fit and energetic with a need to get lots of exercise. Chasing cyclists may also be due to an instinctive prey/chase activity, but either way it will undoubtedly be fun for him. On the other hand, some dogs chase moving objects if they feel threatened, usually barking at the same time and growling. I think this sounds less likely with your dog.

'He won't grow out of it and may get worse'

Whatever the cause, it is very important to deal with this urgently. If, heaven forbid, he were to cause an accident, you would be liable for prosecution for having a dog "dangerously out of control".

It is not something he will grow out of either, if anything it could get worse.

You would benefit from the help of a professionally qualified dog trainer who will design a tailored programme for your dog with continuing support. Search: Animal Behaviour and Training Council for suitably qualified trainers.

Q My cat is 10 years old and has treatment for arthritis. He still loves to go out in the garden. Are there any particular problems with the onset of cold weather and tips to avoid these?

A Very cold weather, when the temperature doesn't get much above 0C, can be quite risky for older cats, although young healthy cats tolerate cold weather generally well. The problem with old cats like yours, particularly with arthritis, is that their brains think they are still a two-year-old. If used to venturing outside they will continue to do so no matter how cold it is.

The main problems are hypothermia, and frozen paws. With the limited mobility that arthritis can cause, usually worse in cold weather, hypothermia is something to be aware of.

Affected cats will shiver, just as we would do, become much less mobile, and may not respond quickly to being called in. The tips of the ears and tail will feel very cold.

Checking the paws is important, as ice balls may collect between the pads. This is also a site where salt or grit can accumulate, quickly leading to skin soreness. This can be prevented by bathing paws with warm water when the cat comes in, having extra warm blankets ready and calling the vet if there isn't a rapid improvement.

Keep cats in during really cold weather, or at least limited supervised excursions outside. Check if eating and drinking continues normally at this time, as previous developing illness may become more obvious.

David Grant has been a vet for more than 50 years. Email questions to him at pamperedpets@reachplc.com. He cannot enter into individual correspondence.

VEGAN PET BALM, *£7.99, BalmNatural*

DOG SLICKER BRUSH, *£9.99, Mad Pets*

GORGEOUS GROOMING

The January weather means lots of time spent getting wet and muddy, which means a pamper is in order. Stock up on some of our favourite grooming products to help keep your four-legged friends spotless this season

Compiled by **FAITH RICHARDSON**

DOG & CAT DENTAL CARE SPRAY, *£6.99, Bugalugs*

FURMINATOR DE-SHEDDER GROOMING TOOL FOR LONG HAIRED CATS, *£12.95-£22, Pets at Home*

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NED PET NATURAL FRESH DOG SHAMPOO BAR, *£9.99, Heaven Scent*

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PERSONALISED TEDDY DRYING ROBE *£47, Cocopups*

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Sat 5 **Tobermory, Isle of Mull**

Sun 6 ***Cruising Loch Broom***

Mon 7 **Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland**

Kirkwall promises an intriguing mix of nature, history, and traditional Scottish pastimes, with opportunities to discover Orkney's haven for wildlife

Tue 8 **Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland**

Wed 9 ***Cruising by Fingal's Cave & Dutchman's Cap***

Thu 10 **Galway, Ireland**

Cruising by Cliffs of Moher

Fri 11 ***Cruising by Spike Island***

Cobh (for Cork), Ireland

Cork, affectionately known as the Rebel City, combines the charm of a quaint Irish town with the dynamic energy of a bustling city

Sun 13 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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SEPTEMBER 2026

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Mon 14 **Portland, Dorset**

Tue 15 **St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly**

St. Mary's, the largest of the five inhabited islands that make up The Isles of Scilly archipelago, offers a fascinating heritage, where traces of life go back at least eight centuries. The entire archipelago is a designated area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Marine Conservation Zone, where there is an abundance of marine life and migrant birds, such as Atlantic grey seals, gannets and comorants, and even puffins, from April onwards

Wed 16 ***Cruising by the Skelligs, Inishnabro, Tearaght Island & Cliffs of Moher***

Thu 17 **Killybegs, Ireland**

Fri 18 **Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland**

Sat 19 **Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland**

Sun 20 ***Cruising Loch a' Chàirn Bhàin, Loch Broom & Loch Torridon***

Mon 21 ***Cruising by Dutchman's Cap & Fingal's Cave***

Tue 22 **Arrive in Liverpool**

Date not mentioned is spent relaxing at sea

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Lincoln, Bishops Trade Park LN2 4JZ
Nottingham, Castle Park NG2 1AH
Stoke, Tunstall Trade Park ST6 4SE

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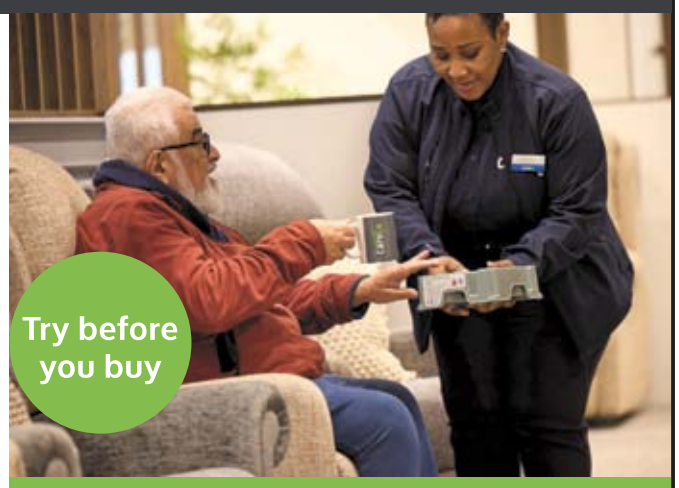
Opening Times

Mon - Sat: 9:00am – 6:00pm
(Eastbourne: 9:00am – 5:30pm)

Sunday: 10:00am – 4:30pm
(10:00am - 10:30am viewing only)

* PLEASE NOTE: Prices exclude VAT and are available to those with a long term medical condition. Offers end 22nd February 2026.



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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

Pick of the day
INSIDE THE FACTORY
BBC1, 8PM

WINTERWATCH, BBC2, 7PM

THEY stopped doing Autumnwatch, they never even started doing Summerwatch, but I'm pleased to see we still have this one and the spring thing. Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Iolo Williams are coming to us live once more from the Mount Stewart estate on the shores of Strangford Lough, where wading birds will hopefully be gathering, assuming they and the BBC aren't involved in another dispute over appearance fees.

Beyond that, we're promised "expert insight, intimate encounters and those first magical moments of the season", which sounds a bit like the opening weekend on Match Of The Day.

WHAT NOT TO EAT, C4, 8PM

THIS programme's pair of presenters, Prof Tim Spector and Dr Kandi Ejiofor, have been dishing out excellent advice these past few weeks, pointing out that heavily processed foods, which seem to be everywhere now, can be desperately bad for our health. Tonight they also talk about the chemicals found in diet drinks.

But they also underline the positive side of their message, namely that wholefoods and nutritious recipes can work wonders. What a pity, then, that Prof Spector insists on pronouncing vitamins" as "vy-tamins" as obviously this leaves me with no choice but to switch him off.

MEDICATION MAKER
Paddy, in protective suit, at the Strepsils factory

MAKING SUCKERS OUT OF US ALL

MAKING Strepsils is a serious business. Paddy McGuinness discovers this the moment he arrives at Reckitts in Nottingham. For starters, he has to bung on loads of protective gear: a big red one-piece polythene suit, latex gloves, surgical space loafers (not their real name) and two types of hairnet – one for his head, the other for his chin.

Paddy doesn't seem to have an abundance of hair on either, but I guess he has more than Gregg Wallace, and factories never relaxed their hygiene rules for Gregg. ("Yeah, come on in, slaphead, you're fine as you are," no one ever used to say to Mr Wallace.)

Paddy looks absurd of course, but if he wants them to show him around, so he can see how they churn out 36 million lozenges per day at this place ("the most hygienically high-tech factory I've ever seen," he tells us), he's going to have to sacrifice his dignity.

He's also going to have to stop calling them "cough drops", because Rich, who's the Lozenge Supply Lead, sounds a bit huffy when he does that.

"These aren't 'cough drops'," Rich informs him (diplomatically stopping short of adding "you idiot" to that statement). "These are medicated lozenges we're making." So yep, that's Paddy told. Or nearly. "It's classed as a medicine," Rich continues, "and you're only allowed up to 12 lozenges every 24 hours." Rich strikes me as a chap who'd give you a proper telling-off if he caught you popping a sneaky 13th Strepsil into your mouth. But he also strikes me as a reassuring presence, the kind of man you'd want in a job like this.

I'd rather that than suck on a Strepsil and think: "This has been made by the bloke who hosted A Question Of Sport." Also insisting things are done by the book is technical director Dr Jenna Buckley. Jenna works in an area where Paddy is told he can't bring his phone. The camera crew also have to film from a distance. "This is an ATEX-rated zone," she warns. "Anything that carries an electrical charge might cause an explosion."

Wouldn't you love a job where you can say stuff like that? I tried it while typing in the kitchen and even the dog just laughed.

BEST DOCUMENTARY

24 HRS IN POLICE CUSTODY: ZOMBIE KNIVES, C4, 9PM

In 2024, the sale of zombie-style knives and swords was banned. This programme looks at the government's compensation scheme to get the existing blades off the streets.

BEST SOAP

EMMERDALE, ITV1, 8PM

Still focusing on the suspects in Ray's murder, Rhona's in despair over April's disappearance and is home alone when a shadowy figure looms behind her.

BEST DRAMA

THE GOOD SHIP MURDER, 5, 9PM

Jack and Kate have another mystery on their hands when they stop in Crete, where Alfie Blake wants to recreate the photo he took of his muse, except he's found dead.

BEST TRAVEL

RICK STEIN'S AUSTRALIA, BBC2, 8PM

Rick retraces the journey he first made as a 19-year-old hitchhiker, travelling from Sydney towards Queensland to see how the area's lifestyle is shaping food and dining.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain A company that invented fake debts.
11.30 Homes Under the Hammer Property auctions. (R)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes The detectorists search for a bracelet given to a woman by her late father.
2.30 Animal Park The emu keepers hope that a chick might be about to hatch.
3.00 Escape to the Country Briony May Williams helps a potential buyer from Leeds.
3.45 Garden Rescue (R)
4.30 The Travelling Auctioneers Izzie Balmer and JJ Chalmers help siblings Annette and Bruce clear their late mother's home, uncovering treasures including a trike motorcycle and vintage watches.
5.15 Pointless Quiz, with guest co-host Lauren Laverne. (R)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.30am The Travelling Auctioneers (R)
7.15 Bargain Hunt (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Weatherman Walking: The Welsh Coast From Little Haven to Solva. (R)
8.30 Sign Zone: Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (R)
9.00 BBC News Headlines.
12.15pm Politics Live Reports.
1.00 LIVE **Bowls: World Indoor Championships** From Potters Resorts at Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk, featuring the mixed pairs final and a last-16 match in the open singles.
5.15 Flog It! Will Axon and Thomas Plant value items at London Zoo in Regent's Park. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games With Nadia Jae, Nigel Planer, Tamzin Outhwaite and Steen Raskopoulos.
6.30 Robson Green's Weekend Escapes Robson and presenter Gail Porter head to the Cairngorms, where they cycle around Loch Malachie before trying to get a glimpse of ospreys in the wild.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm Loose Women Debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his team are in Leeds to assess items, with one seller cashing in a gold bullion collection to buy presents for his grandchildren in Australia.
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz show.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.
5.00 The Chase Ian from Wigan, Marsha from Lincoln, Laura from Edinburgh and Najam from Norwich work as a team to take on one of the experts.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News Summary Headlines.
12.10 Car S.O.S Fixing up a World Rally-winning car. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
2.10 Countdown Broadcaster Jo Good is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun A home on the island of Lefkada. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun Sharon and Bongo plan a takeaway business in Spain.
5.00 Junior Bake Off Liam Charles drops the bakers in a sticky mess with a Japanese-inspired technical and the children come up with choux pastry postcards.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Shelly is looking for a holiday home in Puglia, Italy, with Laura Hamilton coming up with selections including a tempting townhouse and a villa with a tremendous trullo.

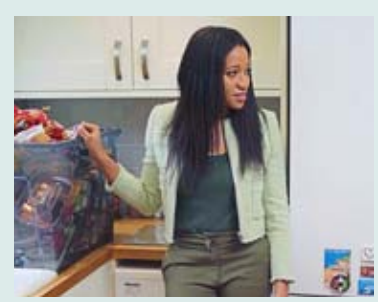
5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis With Storm Huntley and Alexis Conran.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show, presented by Vanessa Feltz.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Jean investigates when Raffy Ozanne is found dead in his shop. As well as the takings, an antique perfume bottle was stolen, and Caron needs Jean's help to try and trace it to the murderer. Last in series. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Sunshine Radio presenter Simon swaps the studio for the stage.
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 The Travel Show: How to Have a Great Holiday Tips on the best autobiographies to help ignite a traveller's wanderlust, plus clips of Susan Calman in Amsterdam and Nick Knowles in Norway. (R); 5 News Update

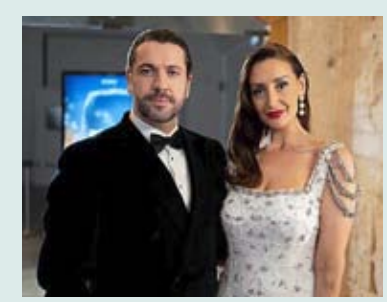
4.30pm, THE TRAVELLING AUCTIONEERS: Izzie and JJ

7pm, WINTERWATCH: Chris Packham

8.30pm, CORONATION STREET: Maggie, Ben and Eva



8pm, WHAT NOT TO EAT: Dr Kandi Ejiofor



9pm, THE GOOD SHIP MURDER: Shayne Ward & Catherine Tyldesley

7

7.00 The One Show With Alex Jones and Lauren Laverne.
7.30 EastEnders Jasmine is adamant that she and Oscar leave Walford, but he isn't keen, and Max tries to talk him out of it. Ricky arranges a surprise birthday party for Phil.

7.00 NEW **Winterwatch** Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Iolo Williams broadcast from the Mount Stewart estate on the shores of Strangford Lough. The team discover the quiet wonders of winter, from wading birds to ancient trees.

7.15 The Martin Lewis Money Show: Live The cash expert answers more of the financial questions that matter most, and offers tips and tricks for making finances go further. Featuring queries from the audience and those at home.

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

7.00 Supermarket Own-Brands: The Big Taste Test A look at some of the bargains offered by German retailers Aldi and Lidl, while comparing the prices of their products to that of the brand leaders. (R); 5 News Update

8

8.00 Inside the Factory Paddy McGuinness heads to Nottingham to uncover the secrets behind one of Britain's busiest pharmaceutical factories, where 230 million tablets and lozenges are produced every week.

8.00 Rick Stein's Australia Rick retraces the journey he made as a 19-year-old hitchhiker, travelling up from Sydney towards Queensland on the NSW North Coast. He hopes to see how a laid-back lifestyle is shaping food and dining.

8.00 Emmerdale The next episode focusing on the suspects in Ray's murder features scenes reflecting Rhona's journey over the past two weeks.
8.30 Coronation Street Eva calls an ambulance when Ben experiences heart palpitations.

8.00 What Not to Eat Tim Spector and Kandi Ejiofor reveal what's found in some supermarket chicken nuggets. They also help Claire, Georgia and Jay in Buckinghamshire with their diet that consists almost exclusively of beige food.

8.00 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly Graeme Hall meets a Pekingese four pack, who all go on a rampage whenever they see a four-legged fellow. Also, Graeme discovers how to prep a pup for the groomers and what to do about lumps.

9

9.00 Waterloo Road Nicky's instincts tell her something is wrong with Tony, but can she figure out what's really going on and help Portia? Agnes spirals as Schuey pushes her too far, and she seeks solace in a surprising place.

9.00 QI XL Sandi Toksvig goes willy-nilly through the letter W as she and Alan Davies are joined by Josh Widdicombe, Catherine Bohart and Russell Kane.
9.45 Live at the Apollo Ivo Graham introduces fellow comedians Catherine Bohart and Nabil Abdulrashid to London's Hammersmith Apollo stage, to share their views on modern life.
10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events, with Victoria Derbyshire; Weather

9.00 Killer in the House: The Murder of Nicholas Billingham A look at the case of primary school teacher Fiona Beal, who killed her partner Nicholas Billingham and claimed that he had left her for another woman.

9.00 24 Hours in Police Custody Investigates: Zombie Knives An investigation into the epidemic of knife crime violence that left 97 young people murdered in 2025, 17 of whom were under the age of 16.

9.00 The Good Ship Murder In Crete, a photographer hopes to recapture the magic of his former years by recreating an iconic photograph of his long-lost muse. However, he is then found murdered at the scene of the original photo shoot.

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 Waterloo Road As Tonya struggles with the aftermath, Nicky struggles with her confidence, leading to disastrous results. Darius's desperation sees him take big steps to protect his secret and Agnes puts her relationship in jeopardy as she betrays Schuey's trust.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.45 Long Lost Family Cameras focus on the childhoods of Alan Parker and Katherine Fletcher, both keen to know about their respective parents. (R)

10.00 FILM **The Secret of Me** (2025, 15) Premiere. Documentary about 19-year-old Louisiana college student Kristi, who in 1995 discovered their doctor and parents had been keeping a secret from them all of their life. After uncovering the truth, Kristi took the decision to become Jim, and this account of what happened also shines the light on the many intersex people all over the world, still contending with who they are and what was done to them as children. ★★★★

10.00 Street Cops: Catching the Yobs Police are braced for trouble at the playoff final between Kettering and Telford, with one of the biggest crowds ever-seen at the non-league stadium. Also, two men are suspected of drug dealing.

11

11.40 Things You Should Have Done Triple bill. Return of the sitcom, starring Lucia Keskin. When the family faces another unexpected bereavement, Chi returns to her list and opts to get therapy. Bridget Christie joins the cast as a tough-love counsellor; Dave considers asking his rich estranged sister for help; Ruth sets Chi a task.

11.00 Digging for Britain Featuring rare finds from an Iron Age hoard, a look inside the UK's largest and most complex dig in a generation. There is also an Iron Age site perched on the very edge of the White Cliffs of Dover. (R)

11.45 It'll Be Alright on the Night Comedian Tom Allen celebrates the chaos that occurs when making TV shows, with unseen outtakes featuring an accidental innuendo with Idris Elba that leaves Lorraine in tears. (R)

11.05 Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law A revenue protection manager co-ordinates a major operation to clamp down on fare evasion at Clapham, and a law student pleads his case after getting caught without a valid ticket. (R)

12 MIDNIGHT

1.10am Weather for the Week Ahead **1.15-6.00am** BBC News

12.00m't FILM The Piano (1993, 15) Period drama, starring Holly Hunter. ★★★★ **1.55** Sign Zone: What We Do in the Shadows (R) **2.20** Sign Zone: The Traitors (R) **3.20** Sign Zone: Can You Keep a Secret? (R) **3.50** Sign Zone: Amanda & Alan's Greek Job (R) **4.20-6.30am** This Is BBC Two

12.10am Shop on TV **3.00** Long Lost Family: The Mother and Baby Home Scandal. Part two of two. Siblings Viv and Julie continue their search for their big sister while mum Margaret awaits news. Ann tries to uncover the fate of her brother. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

12.05am 24 Hours in A&E (R) **1.00** Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins (R) **1.55** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **2.45** Couples Come Dine with Me (R) **3.35** Jamie's £1 Wonders (R) **4.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R) **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R)

12.05am Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Rich House, Poor House (R) **3.50** Save Money on Your Supermarket Shop (R) **4.35** The Highland Vet (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Olivia Meets Her Match **9.20** The Only Way Is Essex **10.20** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.15** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.10pm** Dinner Date **1.10** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.10** The Only Way Is Essex **3.10** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.05** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **5.55** Celebrity Catchphrase

7.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County Katie hosts a dinner party.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars Maya Jama reviews recent highlights as the Islanders return for a second shot at romance.

10.05 Grosse Pointe Garden Society Alice's grief clouds her judgement.

11.05 Family Guy Double bill.

12.05am American Dad! **1.05** Bob's Burgers **1.35** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.35-3.00am** Unwind

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** In with a Shout **4.00** Riddiculous **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Stephen Mulhern hosts.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Facing off this time are Ange and Brian, Warren and Darryll and Sam and Bec; Louise and Hannah, Natalie and Stacey, and Harvey and Emily compete in the word game; Angie and Kirsty, Ben and Paul and Jan and Gillian compete, as Adil Ray hosts the game.

9.00 Alan Carr's Epic Gameshow The comedian hosts an updated version of Strike It Lucky, with three pairs trying to navigate their way across a sea of screens, and avoid the hotspots.

10.00 Tipping Point Triple bill. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz show in which four players take on a machine in the hope of winning the £10,000 jackpot.

12.50am Tenable. A family team of five take on the Tenable Tower. **1.45** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up The news.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 Deadly 60 Nile crocodiles.

8.00 Top Gear Jeremy Clarkson drives the Jaguar F-Type, Richard Hammond tests a Range Rover and James May goes for an adventure.

9.00 Gavin & Stacey The couple make a surprise announcement.

10.00 *NEW* **Things You Should Have Done** Triple bill. Return of the sitcom, starring Lucia Keskin. Chi decides to get therapy; Dave considers asking his rich estranged sister for help; Ruth instructs Chi to help out at a food bank.

11.30 *FILM* **The Blackening** (2023, 15) Comedy horror, starring Grace Byers and Jermaine Fowler. ★★★

1.00am The Beauty Queen and the Catfish. Documentary. **1.45** Top Gear **2.45** Press X on the BBC **2.55-3.55am** Gavin & Stacey

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo explores the Britain of his youth, starting at Preston's Fulwood Barracks.

7.30 Wainwright Walks An ascent to the summit of Helvellyn.

8.00 Yes, Prime Minister Double bill. Jim tries to censor the former PM's memoirs; Jim wrangles over the Channel Tunnel borders.

9.00 JLB: The Man Who Saw the Future The story of John Logie Baird, the man who invented TV, featuring rare archive footage.

10.15 The Birth of Television Leslie Mitchell traces the origins of TV from the start of the 20th-century to the first outside broadcast.

11.45 The Lost World of Tibet

12.45am Great British Railway Journeys **1.15** Wainwright Walks **1.45** JLB: The Man Who Saw the Future **3.00-4.00am** Wild China

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Eamonn and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Join Patrick for two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews. Top guests tackle the issues that matter, with a sharp take on all stories.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Debate on the latest news.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** Gordon's Great Escape **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** Guy Martin: Proper Jobs **11.00** Rick Stein's India **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's India The chef goes in search of the perfect chicken korma.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? With Bruno Tonioli, Adam Buxton, Kirsty Wark and Rob Beckett joining the regular captains.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games

9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Jack Dee hosts, with Phil Wang and Sayeeda Warsi joining the captains.

10.00 QI XL With Alan Davies, Jason Manford, Ahir Shah and Holly Walsh.

11.00 Taskmaster Nish Kumar is presented with a coconut harness.

12.05am Mock the Week **12.45** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Not Going Out Live **2.30-4.00am** Not Going Out

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.20** The Bill **8.15** Doctors **9.30** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.45pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** All Creatures Great and Small **3.00** Howards' Way **4.10** Bergerac **5.20** One Foot in the Grave

6.00 To the Manor Born Audrey injures her back, but soon recovers when DeVere invites her on a skiing trip.

6.40 Last of the Summer Wine Double bill.

8.00 Harry Wild When a chef's girlfriend is murdered, Harry and Fergus deal with a rival private detective, a gangster's henchman, and a baffling mystery.

9.00 Whitstable Pearl A young widow receives an anonymous note claiming that her husband did not take his own life.

10.05 New Tricks The hunt for a serial killer forces Sandra to rethink her career.

11.05 Waking the Dead Part two of two.

12.25am Hotel Portofino **1.40** One Foot in the Grave **2.20** The Brokenwood Mysteries **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Hollyoaks **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Junior Bake Off **8.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 The Simpsons Double bill.

7.00 Hollyoaks Donny continues to refuse help from those around him.

7.30 The Simpsons Animated capers.

8.00 First Dates William and Zara meet on their first ever dates.

9.00 Gogglebox Double bill.

11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Jess and Ben wish to embark on a non-monogamous lifestyle.

12.10am Naked Attraction **1.15** First Dates **2.20** Gogglebox **3.10** The Simpsons **3.35** The Goldbergs **4.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.55-6.00am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Food Unwrapped **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Double bill. Tim and Fuzz take on carpenter Mike's 1980 Ford Escort RS2000. After his son's road accident, Mike's family want to repay his selfless devotion and give him the Car SOS treatment; Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend take on a wreck of a VW Dune Buggy, owned by a father of three.

9.00 Saving Country Houses with Penelope Keith In the Cotswolds, young couple James and Emma recently inherited Chavenage House and have bold plans to turn the estate into a glamping and sauna destination.

10.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill.

12.10am Saving Country Houses with Penelope Keith **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30-10.40pm** BBC Wales Today. The latest news and headlines; Weather

WALES As BBC2 except: 11.00pm-12.00m't First Minister's Questions. From the Senedd.

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian. Latest news and headlines; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central. Latest news and headlines; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **10.30** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **10.45-11.45pm** Sharp End. covering issues arising from the Welsh Parliament, Westminster and Europe.

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country. Latest headlines; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia. The latest news and headlines; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country. The latest news and headlines; Weather

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion **12.05pm** Gwladfa: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **12.30** Heno **1.00** Welsh Whisperer – Ni'n Teithio Nawr! **1.30** Ffermio **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** 6 Gwlad Shane ac Ieuan **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Cysgu O Gwmpas **6.25** Darllediad Gwleidyddol **6.30** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno. Nightly magazine programme. **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Rownd a Rownd. Britney takes advantage of Caitlin and Cai. **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Y Cyfweliad. The group members interview Elin Fflur. **9.35** Cymru ar Gyffuriau **10.00** Con Jones: Twyllwr Gorau'r Byd **11.00-11.35pm** Y Fets

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast. The latest headlines. **8.30** LIVE **Big Bash League** The first- and second-placed teams face each other. **11.45** Best of ICC WT20 **12.00noon** Transfer Talk. The latest transfer news. **1.00** Lunchtime Live **2.00** LIVE **WPL** Delhi Capitals v Mumbai Indians. **5.30** The Premier League Show. A daily guide to the top flight. **7.00** Gillette Labs Soccer Special **7.30** LIVE **EFL** Wrexham v Leicester City (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage from StoK Racecourse. **10.30** Back Pages Tonight **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00m't** LIVE **TGL** Jupiter Links Golf Club v Los Angeles Golf Club. Coverage of the fourth match. **2.00** Sky Sports News. The latest headlines. **3.00** LIVE **NBA Basketball** Los Angeles Lakers v Denver Nuggets (Tip-off 3.00am). **5.30-6.00am** Sky Sports News. Headlines.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am Big Bash League. From Adelaide Oval. **7.00** Best of England v South Africa **7.15** Best of ICC WT20 **7.30** Big Bash League **8.25** LIVE **Big Bash League** Qualifier play-off match. **11.45** Best of ICC WT20. From 2016. **12.00noon** Big Bash League **12.55** SA20 **1.50** LIVE **WPL** Delhi Capitals v Mumbai Indians. **5.30** Best of England v South Africa **5.45** Best of ICC WT20 **6.00** Big Bash League **7.00** SA20 **8.00** WPL **9.00** SA20 **10.00** WPL **11.00** Big Bash League **2.20am** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **2.30** Best of England v South Africa **2.45** Best of ICC WT20 **3.00** SA20 **5.00-6.00am** Big Bash League

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL Cup Retro **8.00** There's Only One Sauzee **8.30** Dundee United – Champions 83 **9.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** Championship Season Review **11.00** Best Goals: EFL Cup 2022/23 **11.30** EFL Trophy Football **12.00noon** EFL Highlights **12.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **1.30** EFL League One Goals **2.00** EFL League Two Goals **2.30** EFL Highlights **4.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **5.30** EFL Highlights **6.00** EFL League One Goals **6.30** EFL League Two Goals **7.00** EFL Highlights **7.15** EFL Highlights **7.30** LIVE **EFL** Wrexham v Leicester City (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage from StoK Racecourse. **10.30** Best Goals: EFL Cup 24/25 **11.00** EFL Trophy Football **11.30** EFL Greatest Games **12.00m't** Championship Retro **2.00** EFL Greatest Games **4.00** EFL Cup Final 16 **5.00-6.00am** 1983: When Aberdeen Ruled Europe

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips **7.00** Best of the Open Zone 2018 **8.00** The Open Zone **9.00** DP World Tour Golf **10.00** PGA Tour Golf **11.00** Best of the Open Zone 2024 **12.00noon** Nick Dougherty's Winter Tee Time Tips 2022 **1.00** PGA Tour Golf **2.00** DP World Tour Golf **3.00** PGA Tour Golf **4.00** The Improvers **4.30** You Can Play Golf **5.00** Chronicles of a Champion Golfer **6.00** DP World Tour Golf **7.00** PGA Tour Golf **8.00** Junior Golf **8.30** You Can Play Golf **9.00** The Big 5 Roundtable **11.00** PGA Tour Champions **12.00m't** LIVE **TGL** Jupiter Links Golf Club v Los Angeles Golf Club. Coverage of the fourth match. **2.00** Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips. Expert advice. **3.00** How the 2016 Ryder Cup Was Won **5.00** The Golf Fitness Show **5.30-6.00am** Mark Roe's Short Game School

TNT SPORTS 1

8.15am TNT Sports Cricket Reload **8.45** Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup **9.15** LIVE **Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup** Coverage from run one of the Giant Slalom. **11.00** Premier League Review. Analysis. **12.00noon** Kenny Allstar's Number 1's **12.15** LIVE **Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup** Coverage from run two of the Giant Slalom. **1.30** Premier League Review **2.30** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **3.00** UEFA Champions League Magazine **3.30** LIVE **UEFA Champions League** Kairat Almaty v Club Brugge (kick-off 3.30pm). **5.30** Premier League – The Big Interview **6.00** Premier League Netbusters **6.30** PL Stories **7.00** LIVE **UEFA Champions League** Tottenham Hotspur v Borussia Dortmund (kick-off 8.00pm). **10.30** UEFA Champions League Goals Show Xtra **11.00** Premier League Reload **11.15** Premier League Stories **11.45** Kenny Allstar's Number 1's **12.00m't** The Monuments **12.30-7.00am** LIVE **Australian Open** Day four.

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am Premier League Review **7.00** The Edge **9.00** LIVE **A-League Women** Brisbane Roar v Melbourne City (kick-off 9.00). **11.00** The Edge **2.00pm** WRC Review **3.00** Serie A **5.00** LIVE **UEFA Champions League** Bodo/Glimt v Manchester City (kick-off 5.45pm). **7.45** LIVE **UEFA Champions League** Real Madrid v Monaco (kick-off 8.00pm). **10.30** UEFA Champions League Goals Show Xtra **11.00** UEFA Europa League & Conference League **11.30** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights **12.00m't** UEFA Champions League. Highlights. **4.00** Ninja A-League Women Highlights **4.30** Ski Jumping World Cup **5.00-6.00am** Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup. Highlights.

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.35** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.05** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.25pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Vera **10.00** Foyle's War **11.55** Trial & Retribution **2.00-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am World of Sport **6.20** The Big Match Revisited **8.25** Magnum, PI **9.25** Kojak **10.30** Boon **11.40** The Professionals **12.40pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.50** Magnum, PI **2.55** Kojak **4.00** LIVE World Series of Darts: Saudi Arabia Masters. The quarter-finals, semi-finals and final in Riyadh. **8.00** The Motorbike Show **9.00** Ice Road Truckers **10.00** All Elite Wrestling: Collision **12.00m't** Dark Side of the Ring **1.00** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet **2.00** The Protectors **2.30** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Motorsport Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **9.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **10.00** 999: Critical Condition **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** 999: Killer on the Line **1.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **2.00** VC Andrews' Heaven **3.30-4.00am** Car Pound Cops

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Long Lost Family. Helping to reunite families. **10.00** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.05** Winter Road Rescue **9.40** Police Interceptors **11.45** FILM The Proud Rebel (1958/U) ★★★ **2.00** FILM The Deadly Companions (1961/PG) ★★★ **4.00** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **10.00** Police: Suspect No 1 **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.00** Ice Road Truckers **2.05-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Notre-Dame: The Renaissance **7.40** The Joy of Painting **9.10** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: John Mills **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Art of the Garden **3.00** Skinner & Mina's Literary Road Trip: Pope & Swift **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Michelle Yeoh **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **8.00** The World in a Painting: Caravaggio's Comb

Live UEFA Champions League
TNT Sports 1, 7pm
With three wins, two draws and a defeat so far, Dominic Solanke (left) and Spurs are sitting outside the top eight. Tonight they host Borussia Dortmund.

9.15 Irvine Welsh: Reality Is Not Enough **11.00** Miyazaki: Spirit of Nature **1.00am** Landscape Artist of the Year: Celebrity Special **2.00** Landscape Artist of the Year 2026 **3.00** Portrait Artist of the Year: The Exhibition **4.00** Lenny Henry's Got the Blues **5.00-6.00am** National Treasures: The Art of Collecting

U&GOLD

7.30am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.00** The Green Green Grass **8.35** Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **9.20** Are You Being Served? **10.00** Open All Hours **10.40** Keeping Up Appearances **11.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes **2.40** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Open All Hours **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Fawlty Towers **6.40** Open All Hours **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** Fawlty Towers **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.35** Fawlty Towers **12.35am** Men Behaving Badly **1.10** Fawlty Towers **3.05** Men Behaving Badly **3.30-4.00am** Keeping Up Appearances

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great British Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Rise of the Nazis: The Manhunt **11.00** Secret Nazi Bases **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Rise of the Nazis: The Manhunt **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Flipping Bangers **9.00** Bangers & Cash. Four episodes. **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Rise of the Nazis: The Manhunt

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **9.00** Dark Winds. Leaphorn and Chee retrace their steps after uncovering a vital clue. **10.00** Death in Paradise. Starring Kris Marshall. **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00** SEAL Team **6.00** Stargate SG-1 **8.00** Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Winter Special **9.00** FILM Final Score (2018/15) An ex-soldier is forced into action when armed terrorists take control of a packed football stadium. Action drama, starring Dave Bautista and Pierce Brosnan. ★★★★ **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** The Force: North East **2.00** Road Wars **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Urban Secrets **7.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** Succession **11.20** Deadwood **12.30am** The Sopranos **2.45-5.00am** Game of Thrones

SKY WITNESS

6.00am UK Border Force **7.00** Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Send in the Dogs **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **10.00** Fire Country **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** Matlock **3.00** Doc **4.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** Send in the Dogs

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.20** Sex and the City **11.30** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.40** Ballers **3.50** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** FILM Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead (1991/15) Black comedy, starring Christina Applegate. ★★ **11.00** And Just Like That **11.55** Community **12.55am** Entourage **1.55** Ballers **3.05** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.40-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Junkyard Empire **9.00** Gold Rush **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Gold Rush. Parker unleashes chaos to get four plants running for the first time. **11.00** In the Eye of the Storm. Florida's deadliest hurricane. **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Gold Rush **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Britain's Greatest Machines with Chris Barrie **9.00** Air Crash Investigation: Special Report **10.00** Lost Treasures of Rome **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: Secrets from Above **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Hitler's Last Stand: Seize and Hold **4.00** Drain the Great Lakes **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Nazi Megastructures **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Inside the SS **9.00** Inside the SS. A look at the role of the SS in the Holocaust. **10.00** WWII: Tank Showdown **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Car S.O.S **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.30** Money Meltdown **3.20** Food Factory **4.10-5.00am** When Sharks Attack

Movies

FILM4

11.00am Siege at Red River (1954/U) Western, starring Van Johnson. ★★★
12.45pm Mary, Queen of Scots (1971/PG) Historical biopic, starring Vanessa Redgrave, Glenda Jackson and Timothy Dalton. ★★★★
3.20 Robin and Marian (1976/PG) Medieval adventure, starring Sean Connery. ★★★★
5.30 The Enemy Below (1957/PG) Second World War thriller, with Curt Jurgens. ★★★★
7.30 Titanic (1997/12) Drama, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. ★★★★★
11.30 The Crying Game (1992/18) Thriller, with Stephen Rea and Jaye Davidson. ★★★★★
1.45-4.00am The Principles of Lust (2003/18) Drama, starring Alec Newman. ★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am All the Devils Are Here (2025/15) Thriller, starring Eddie Marsan. ★★★
7.35 Friendship (2024/15) Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Kate Mara. ★★★★
9.20 Smurfs (2025/PG) See 12.50pm. ★★★
11.05 A Minecraft Movie (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Jason Momoa. ★★★★
12.50pm Smurfs (2025/PG) Fantasy comedy, featuring the voice of Rihanna. ★★★
2.25 The Phoenician Scheme (2025/15) Comedy, starring Benicio Del Toro. ★★★★
4.10 The Ballad of Wallis Island (2025/12) Comedy, starring Tim Key. ★★★★
6.00 28 Years Later (2025/15) Horror thriller, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson. ★★★★
8.00 Sinners (2025/15) Horror thriller, starring Michael B Jordan. ★★★★
10.20 Nuremberg (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★
12.50am Cookster: The Darkest Days (2024/15) Drama, starring Craige Middleburg, Nick Moran and Tracy Shaw. ★★★
2.55 Beast of War (2025/15) Thriller, starring Mark Coles Smith and Joel Nankervis. ★★
4.30-6.05am Safe House (2025/15) Thriller, starring Holt McCallany. ★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.30pm The Shamrock Spitfire (2024/12) Drama, starring Shane O'Regan. ★★★
6.20 The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (2008/12) Drama, with David Thewlis. ★★★★
8.00 Darkest Hour (2017/PG) Period drama, starring Gary Oldman. ★★★★★
10.15 Quartet (2012/12) Comedy, with Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly. ★★★★
12.05am I, Tonya (2017/15) Comedy, with Margot Robbie and Allison Janney. ★★★★
2.15 Do the Right Thing (1989/15) Drama, with Spike Lee and Danny Aiello. ★★★★★
4.25-6.20am Chuck Chuck Baby (2024/15) Drama, with Louise Brealey. ★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

6.00pm IF (2024/U) Fantasy adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Cailey Fleming. ★★★★
7.50 Jack the Giant Slayer (2013/12) Fantasy adventure, starring Nicholas Hoult. ★★★
9.50 The Cat in the Hat (2003/PG) Comedy, with Mike Myers and Dakota Fanning. ★★★
11.20 It Takes Two (1996/U) Comedy, starring Kirstie Alley and Steve Guttenberg. ★★
1.10am My Penguin Friend (2024/PG) Drama, starring Jean Reno. ★★★★
2.50 Bookworm (2024/12) Comedy, starring Elijah Wood and Nell Fisher. ★★★
4.40-6.25am Zathura: A Space Adventure (2005/PG) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. ★★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.00pm A Good Read: Sherlock Holmes
5.00 Doctor in Trouble (1970/PG) Comedy, starring Leslie Phillips and Irene Handl. ★★
6.55 The Man from UNCLE Spy drama.
8.00 The Doll Thriller, starring John Fraser.
9.05 The Deadly Affair (1967/15) Espionage drama, starring James Mason, Simone Signoret and Maximilian Schell. ★★★★
11.25pm Hammer House of Mystery and Suspense Starring David Carradine.
1.00am Harold Shipman: Doctor Death
2.55 Castle Sinister (1948/PG) Horror, starring Mara Russell-Tavernan and Karl Meir. ★★★
4.00-5.00am Target: The Corruptors

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Diagnosis Murder
5.00 Murder, She Wrote
6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye
7.00 Castle The author searches for Bigfoot when evidence is left at a murder scene.
8.00 Unforgettable A reporter is killed after breaking a story about a sex scandal.
9.00 Martha's Vineyard Mysteries: Ships In The Night (2021/PG) Mystery, starring Jesse Metcalfe and Sarah Lind. ★★★
10.55 Garage Sale Mysteries: All That Glitters (2014/PG) Mystery, starring Lori Loughlin and Sarah Strange. ★★★
12.50am Staged Killer (2019/12) Thriller, starring Chrishell Hartley, Darrin Dewitt Henson and Nicole Bilderback. ★★
2.30 Retribution (2012/PG) Drama, starring Cynthia Watros and Brian Krause. ★★★★
3.55-6.00am Killer Cover Up (2021/12) Thriller, starring Cece Kelly and Rene Ashton. ★★★

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Jamie **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Artists with Sian Eleri **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Martha **1.00am** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00-6.58am** Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am The Scott Mills Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Tina Daheley **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Jazz Show with Jamie Cullum **10.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary **4.00-6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Dvorak **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Stories from the Museum of Music History **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE
What's Up Docs?
Radio 4, 4.30pm
With many of us trying to burn off those Christmas calories, doctors Chris and Xand van Tulleken present an episode entitled How Much Exercise Should You Do? in which they look at the difference between cardio and strength. Is one is more important than other and how can you turn them a long-term habit?

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** Ransom Man **9.30** Inside Health **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Screenshot **11.45** The Trust Shift **12.00noon** News **12.04** Call You and Yours **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Human Intelligence **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: The Golden Key **3.00** Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley **3.30** Heart and Soul **4.00** A People's History of Punk **4.30** What's Up Docs? **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** You Heard It Here First **7.00** The Archers. Chelsea offers her support and Fallon is in a delicate position. **7.15** Front Row **8.00** File on 4 Investigates **8.40** In Touch **9.00** Crossing Continents **9.30** The Bottom Line **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Memory Police **11.00** Dark Breath **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** The Trust Shift **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **5.30** 5 Live Sport **5.45** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport **10.30** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** When Priya and Leila Met Santes Dwynwen **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Behnaz Akhgar **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Science Cafe **7.00** Molly Palmer **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics. With Ritula Shah. **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

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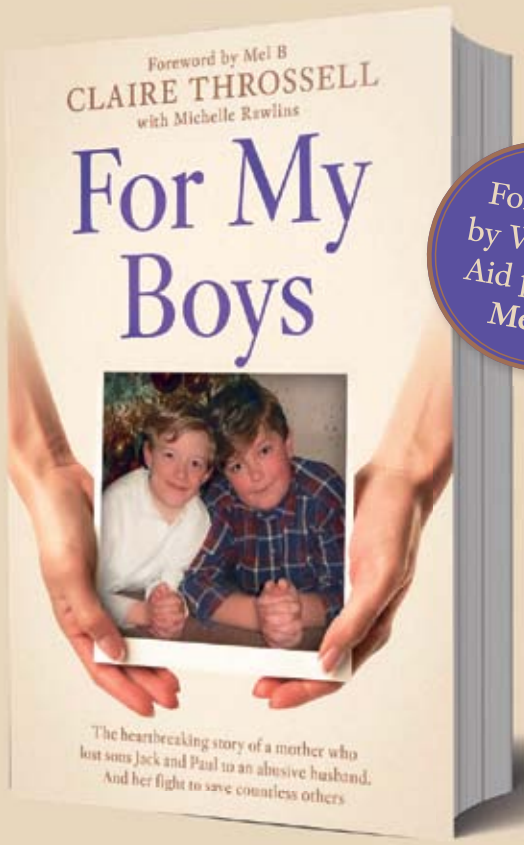
Foreword by Mel B
CLAIRE THROSSELL
with Michelle Rawlins
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Foreword by Women's Aid patron, Mel B.

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ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

You're looking for more excitement and you will find this through your friendships and connections with others. Say yes to the possibility of taking a short trip. New people and new situations will keep you interested. Embrace spontaneity, as even the simplest moments can turn into delightful adventures. All you need is a flexible outlook.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

You are in control of your destiny and although you won't be up for anything too wild, you can think of a few ways to have some fun. There's really no need to push your limits and the wise person you happen to be will recognise your limitations and know the importance of taking care of your health. Embrace the comfort of simplicity.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

Your work scene and even life itself will be more hectic than normal. You're putting in a lot of effort and hoping to complete a job you're working on by the end of the day. Just don't feel let down if, despite all your hard work, you don't quite make it. You're not far from achieving your goal. Embrace the journey, each step brings you closer to success.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

New people you are introduced to will be useful in some of your business dealings. Turn on the charm and you will get yourself noticed. Are you single? A romance with someone in a position of authority could begin today. Those around you can sense your excitement and this newfound energy may open doors you didn't know existed.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

Something unexpected that occurs will relate to your family, household or property. If you've been looking for a new place, don't disregard a chance to rent or buy something unlike anything you had in mind. You could find yourself in an unusual temporary living situation. Embrace the spontaneity, as it may lead you toward unexpected joys.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

Be patient with others. What you are feeling is a strong need for new experiences. You're more than ready to welcome something or someone different into your life. If you are offered a chance to travel, you won't hesitate about your answer. You're eager to try something out of the ordinary, and the thrill of the unknown will enrich your perspective.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

You're becoming more aware of a talent in art, literature or music and this could change how you spend your free time. It doesn't matter how you discovered this skill, what matters is you want to nurture it and feel the joy of watching your creative thoughts come to life. Embrace this newfound passion, it may lead to unexpected connections.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

To increase your chances of success, stay alert at all times. Even the smallest of mistakes could hinder your progress. Doors that open for you today could well be shut tomorrow. Embrace the thrill of spontaneity, as it may lead you to unexpected paths of achievement. Trust your instincts, they're your greatest ally in this transformative journey.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Keep an eye on finances and be sure to stay informed about any changes being made. You might receive money but there could be some loss due to strings attached. At the same time a delightful surprise awaits you. A romantic escapade could also be in your future, bringing a thrill that ignites your spirit. Embrace the joy and see where it leads you.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

Business and financial matters are looking up and your future looks promising. If you've mustered the courage to talk to a financial adviser about a loan or mortgage, attempts to do so now could meet with some pleasing and far-reaching consequences. Sharing your ideas on improving a work situation will also have impactful results.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

It's one of those unpredictable days when you might either gain money or lose out. Matters related to your possessions could feel uncertain. An opportunity to earn cash will be unexpected or a friend might help you find a new job. Just be cautious about belongings and finances. Trust your instincts, they may lead you to surprising new avenues of income.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

Your social scene will be buzzing this evening and there's a strong chance a get-together at a neighbour's will help you expand your circle. In a new partnership you are building the foundation for a truly special relationship. Embrace the warmth of laughter, as this camaraderie may lead to unexpected opportunities and delightful surprises.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
(80p/min + network access charge)

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge – maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

NUTWOOD TALES

To order a copy of the Rupert Annual 2024 (£10.99) visit www.expressbookshop.com or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on online orders over £25.

RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.17

Then, pausing in its search for fish,
The bird returns. "What is your wish?"

It reads the scroll in Rupert's hand,
Then chirps, "I think I understand."

Rupert, dismayed, believes that the kingfisher has not heard his call. But as he reaches the last stepping-stone he sees that the bird has swept around in a circle and is flying to meet him. Eagerly, he holds up the scroll for it to see. "Please," he calls "would you visit King Penguin? There isn't time to tell the whole story, but unless he is visited by three more royal names he won't leave his cave." The bird looks at the scroll. "I think I understand," it chirps.

CALVIN AND HOBBES BILL WATTERSON

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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	10195.4	▼	-39.9
FTSE 250	23111.8	▼	-199.6
FTSE ALL SHARE	5493.5	▼	-24.4
Shares Traded	11352.2 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
Aviva	682	+6½
BT Group	185½	+6½
HSBC Holdings	1238¾	+6¾
Lloyds Banking Group	102¼	+¼
Sainsbury (J)	317½	+2½
Tesco	425¾	+3¾
Vodafone Group	102	+1¼
Whitbread	2783	+1

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED	
Int Consolidated Airlines	410½

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
Abrdn	218	-7¼
AstraZeneca	13890	-162
BAE Systems	2086	-2
Barclays	483	-6
BP	437¾	-2½
Centrica	181½	-¾
GSK	1816	-½
Marks & Spencer Group	361½	-5½
National Grid	1196	-5½
NatWest Group	646	-6¾
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1267	-18½
Saga	403	-11½
Shell	2730	-22½
Unilever	4756	-5½

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	49,359.3	▼	-83.1
TOKYO	53583.6	▼	-352.6
HONG KONG	26563.9	▼	-281.1
GERMANY	24959.1	▼	-338.1
FRANCE	8112.0	▼	-146.9

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.343	▲	+0.005
Yen	212.285	▲	+0.809
Euro	1.153	▶	0.000

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	158.077	▼	-0.0274
Dollar/Euro	0.859	▼	-0.0033

COMMODITIES		
GOLD($)	▲	4670.64
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲	3478.98
SILVER(pence)	▲	7035.09
BRENT CRUDE($)	▲	64.16

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+3.8% (CPI +3.2%)
House price Index	+1.7%
Unemployment	1,832,000

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.95 dollar
Canada	1.81 dollar
China	8.75 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.28 koruna
Denmark	8.17 krone
Eurozone	1.13 euro
Hong Kong	9.82 dollar
Hungary	416.24 forint
Israel	3.97 shekel
Japan	203.14 yen
Jordan	0.89 dinar
Mexico	22.38 peso
New Zealand	2.26 dollar
Norway	13.03 krone
Poland	4.63 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.79 riyal
South Africa	21.17 rand
Sweden	11.75 krona
Switzerland	1.04 franc
Thailand	40.22 baht
Turkey	53.92 lira
United States	1.32 dollar

Germany and India match UK as investment magnets

By **MAISIE GRICE**

THE UK strengthened its position as a global investment hub over the past year as it worked to offset competition from other countries, but two still caught up.

Britain remained the second most attractive destination for international investment for chief executives last year, according to a PwC survey, though it now shares the position with Germany and India.

All three were cited as locations likely to receive the greatest share of investment this year at 13% each, marking a 1% drop for the UK and a 1% rise for Germany.

India had the greatest rise, jumping from 7%, while the US kept a firm grip on the top spot, with 35% of chief executives citing it as the most attractive destination.

Trader at London Stock Exchange

Globally, only 30% of CEOs say they are confident about revenue growth over the next 12 months, down from 38% in 2025 and 56% in 2022.

The UK's ranking retention comes despite a sharp rise in economic uncertainty, with a quarter of UK chief executives anticipating the domestic economy to slide over the next 12 months, compared to just 13% in 2025.

But the increase in competition has also led the UK to strengthen its global standing through trade agreements.

This includes the landmark UK-India Free Trade Agreement signed in July, aiming to boost trade by cutting tariffs on goods such as whisky and cars, and the UK-US economic partnership, which relieved tariffs on UK steel.

However that arrangement is now in question following president Donald Trump's latest tariff salvo.

Marco Amitrano, senior partner of Pwc UK, said: Being the world's second-most important investment destination for a second-year running should not be underestimated.

"It demonstrates that the UK still looks stable in a turbulent world.

"But in now sharing that position it's also a wake-up call."

UK businesses are also opting to increase their technology, AI and data investment, with more than 80% citing it as a top priority.

Mr Amitrano added: "The speed of tech change is exposing excessive bureaucracy and overly rigid structures, things that can hamper transformation at pace."

ARSENAL PASS BARCA IN RICH LIST

WINNERS: Arsenal beat Barcelona 1-0 in Champions League final

ARSENAL Women overtook Barcelona Femeni to be the richest women's football team in Europe, in Deloitte's annual rankings.

The Champions League holders were revenue table-toppers for the first time with £21.5million in 2024-25, pipping Chelsea Women (£21.3m) who easily beat them to the domestic Super League title.

Barca slipped to third on £18.5m, with that trio accounting for almost half the total of the top 15 clubs. Arsenal grew income by 43% by playing more often at the Emirates – drawing crowds of 35,000-plus – with tickets priced to encourage repeat visits.

Jennifer Haskel, of Deloitte's sports business group, said: "There is a meaningful gap...between the top-ranked clubs and the rest."

Stuart Rose fears UK crisis

Lord Rose quits as chair of forecourt firm EG

LORD Stuart Rose has stepped down as chair of EG Group before the petrol forecourt firm's flotation in New York.

The former M&S chief was immediately replaced by Roland Smith, current chairman of American fast-food chain Jack's, in the clearest sign yet the company is seeking to court US investors ahead of the planned IPO. Tory peer Lord Rose, who also chairs Asda, will remain with EG Group as a non-executive director.

The business, founded in Greater Manchester in 2001, is expected to float in New York this year with a value of around $9bn (£6.7billion) and could do so under the name Cumberland Farms – a US convenience store operator it bought in 2019.

In September Lord Rose attacked the government's economic strategy, saying: "I look at the state of the nation and I say to myself, I believe we're genuinely at the edge of a crisis."

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3252	-109	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1856	-2½	2337	1838
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	359½	+1½	372¾	123¾
Alliance Trust	1280	-14	1324	1050
Anglo American	3248	+8	3320	2003¾
Antofagasta	3612	+52	3665	1383
Ashtead Group	5110#	-192	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	13890	-162	14346	9667
Auto Trader	569½#	-13½	908½	568½
Aviva	682	+6½	692½	493
Babcock International	1486	+2	1525	498¼
BAE Systems	2086	-2	2159	1180½
Barclays	483	-6	489	241¾
Barratt Development	378½	-2	482¼	350
Beazley Group	1170	+350	1199	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3962	-18	4324	3524
BP	437¾	-2½	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4373#	+47	4421	2953
British Land	412½	+2¼	420½	321¼
BT Group	185½#	+6½	222¾	139½
Bunzl	2046	-28	3452	2032
Burberry Group	1236½	-35½	1371½	627¾
Centrica	181½	-¾	183	132¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3924	-2	4034	2762
Compass Group	2283#	-8	2843	2278½
Convatec Group	231¼	-5½	295½	221¼
CRH	9046	-94	9704	6142
Croda International	2693	-54	3383	2465
DCC	4418	-60	5600	4350
Diageo	1625	-30½	2503½	1577
Diploma	5460#	-225	5685	3624
EasyJet	483¾	-1½	587¾	427½
Entain	687½	-15½	1022	501¼
Experian Group	3249#	-47	4088	3091
F&C Inv Tst	1251#	-13	1272	962
Flutter Entert.	13585	-870	23630	13490
Fresnillo	3996	+250	3996	657

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Games Workshop	18070#	-700	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1816	-½	1901½	1264
Glencore	481	+2½	491	230
Haleon	361	-2¾	415¼	326½
Halma	3596#	-102	3698	2360
Hikma	1543	-27	2340	1507
Hiscox	1516	+127	1516	1035
HSBC Holdings	1238¾	+6¾	1240	713¼
IMI	2644	-44	2688	1606
Imperial Brands	3099	+55	3312	2600
Informa	872½	-17	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10130½	-3674½	10309¼	5528
Intermediate Cap.Grp	2022	-28	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4554	-28	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	410½		437	224½
JD Sports	79½	-2	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	317¼	-1	329¾	238½
Land Securities	654	+4	654	499½
Legal & General	267¾	+2	268¼	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	102¼	+¼	102¼	58½
London & Stamford Prop	202½	-1½	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	9082	-102	12095	8138

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
M&G	302¼	+2¾	303	172¾
Marks & Spencer	361½	-5½	411¼	318½
Melrose	616¾	-24	680	386
Mondi	886½	-9½	1326	819
National Grid	1196	-5½	1208	919¾
NatWest Group	646	-6¾	665½	411¼
Next	13950	+190	14580	9336
Pearson	929¾	-9¼	1379	918½
Pershing Square Hold	4576	-68	5090	3244
Persimmon	1411½	-3	1419	1037½
Phoenix Group	748½	+8	748½	499¼
Prudential	1195	+12½	1195½	652
Reckitt Benckiser	6116		6228	4633
RELX	3014	-80	4135	2972
Rentokil Initial	453¾	-11	473½	309½
Rightmove	504¼	-11	823¾	502½
Rio Tinto	6339	-8	6468	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1267	-18½	1305	582¾
Sage Group	1036#	-18	1348	1035
Sainsbury (J)	317½	+2½	355¾	228¾
Schroders	456½	-10½	467	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1186	-29	1215½	815¼
SEGRO	740½	-7	751½	599
Severn Trent	2874	+39	2907	2370
Shell	2730	-22½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1210	-26	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2578	-34	2612	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3078	-95	4495	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7050	-135	8190	5445
SSE	2363#	+20	2364	1463½
St James's Place	1484½	-31	1515½	791
Standard Chartered	1873	-5½	1878¾	878¾
Tesco	425¾	+3¾	475½	314½
Unilever	4756	-5½	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1228#	+3	1242	944½
Vodafone Group	102#	+1¼	103¾	64
Weir Group	3080	-8	3088	1984
Whitbread	2783	+1	3274	2335

Zurich reignites bid for Beazley

ZURICH Insurance Group has launched its second public pursuit of Beazley with a revised proposal at 1.28p per share.

At the start of the month, Zurich privately submitted a bid to the Lloyd's of London prominent underwriter to acquire 100% of it at 1.23p per share in cash. The proposal was rejected for "significantly undervaluing" the business.

On Monday, Zurich publicly offered 1.28p per share, valuing the FTSE 100 group at around £7.7bn. This represents a 56% premium to Beazley's closing price last Friday.

Zurich holds a 1.465% stake in Beazley – some 8.78 million ordinary shares. Under the UK Takeover Code, it has until 5pm on February 16 to announce a firm intention to make an offer or walk away.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Rocket + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1976	-12	2180	1338
Babcock International	1486	+2	1525	498¼
BAE Systems	2086	-2	2159	1180½
Chemring Group	539	-7	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	521½#	+6	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1267	-18½	1305	582¾
Senior	221½	-6½	229½	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	884	-16	900	626
Banks				
Barclays	483	-6	489	241¾
Bco Santander	908	+5	913	398½
Close Brothers	525	-10	550½	243¾
HSBC Holdings	1238¾	+6¾	1240	713¼
Investec	592	-5	597	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	102¼	+¼	102¼	58½
Metro Bank	128½	-2¼	133½	81
NatWest Group	646	-6¾	665½	411¼
Paragon Group	897½	-4½	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1873	-5½	1878¾	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	645		711	574
Coca-Cola HBC	3924	-2	4034	2762
Diageo	1625	-30½	2503½	1577
Chemicals				
Carclo	57¼	-¼	80	21
Croda International	2693	-54	3383	2465
Elementis	164¼	-7½	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2316#	-24	2362	1156
Synthomer	58½	-5¾	158¼	46
Treatt	213	-5	450	186½
Victrex	695	-5	1066	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	726	-9	735	390½
Costain Group	164	+1	168	86
CRH	9046	-94	9704	6142
Dialight	325	-7	364	89
Galliford Try	534	+2	546	321
Gleeson (MJ)	402	-1	538	320
Keller Group	1714	-26	1745	1240
Kier Group	222	-2	231½	115¼
Marshalls	167¼	-10¼	293	162
Morgan Sindall	4965	-20	5020	2945
Severfield-Rowen	28	-½	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½#		132½	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	896½	-7	909	536½
SSE	2363#	+20	2364	1463½
Telecom Plus	1340	-26	2085	1340
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	601#	-11	738	486
Halma	3596#	-102	3698	2360
Oxford Instruments	2340	-70	2410	1500
Renishaw	3735	-140	3875	2145
TT Electronics	110	-1½	154	73
XP Power	1012	+107	1314	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	378	-4	383	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1628	-10	1638	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1280	-14	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	276	+1	279	212½
AVI Global Tst	259½	-1½	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	939	-1	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	138	-½	138¾	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	134¼	-1½	136	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	402	+1	409½	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1255	-10	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	949	+20	955	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼		31	28¼
British Assets Tst	27¾		49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1474	-16	1508	1140
Caledonia Inv.	370½	-4½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	396	+10	398	165¾
City Of London	549	+1	550	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	309	-2	312	262
Edin Wwide Inv	222	-6	229½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	815	-9	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	383#	-3½	386¾	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¼		41	36½
F&C Cap&Inc.	354	+4	355	287
F&C Inv Tst	1251#	-13	1272	962
F&C Smaller Cos	183½#	-1¼	184¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1395	-35	1522½	1115
Fidelity Asian	610	+2	628	454
Fidelity European	425½	-6½	434	338½
Fidelity Special	428½	-3	431½	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	824	-12	962	795
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1146	+14	1150	632
Graphite Ent	1504	-4	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	270	-3	276	190
Hansa Tst Plc	272	-4	280	192½
Henderson Far Est	252½	+1	253½	190½
Henderson High Inc	194#	-1½	195½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2585	-40	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	493½	-12½	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	119	-½	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	425½	-5½	431	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	960#	-10	996	480
International Public	129½	+¼	130	107¾
Invesco Asia.	443		447	300
Invesco Perp UK	381	-3	386	313½
JPM American	1106	-22	1186	869
JPM Asian	482½#	+2	485	331½
JPM Claverhouse	876	-4	888	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	144#	-½	145	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	608#	-11	620	444½
JPM Global Emerging	180½#	+½	181½	118½
JPM Indian	987	-3	1106	904
JPM Japanese	757#	-1	759	493
JPM Overseas IT	577	-12	610	480
JPM Smaller Co	336	+1	338	253
JPM US Sml Co.	419	-7	516	338
Jupiter Euro.	925	-16	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	187		220	184
Law Debenture	1104	-14	1124	788
Lowland Invest Co	165½#		166	114½
Majedie Inv.	274	-6	280	230
Manchester&Lon.	771	-19	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	352#	-6	386	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT 33½			38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	264½#	-1½	266	202½
Merchants Tst	613	-4	618	474
Mid Wynd Int.	782	-8	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1534	-20	1554	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	167½	-3	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	103½#	-1	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	921	-11	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	330#	-3	335	239
New India	756	-6	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	129½	+5½	129½	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst				
Northern 2 VCT	53½#		57	52
Northern Venture	56½#		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	6½		7	5½
Pacific Assets.	374	-2	378	302
Pacific Horizon	863	+2	863	507
Pantheon Int.	385	-2	388½	266
Pershing Square Hold	4576	-68	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	485	-7½	492½	255½
RCM Technology Trust	540	-10	550	307
RIT Capital Partners	2195	-25	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment.	300½	+1	304	270
Schroder Asia	699#	+2	701	461½
Schroder Inc.	352#	-2	354	255
Schroder Japan	332#	+1	335½	209
Schroder UK	209	-2	211	158½
Schroder UK M&S	740	-8	748	520
Scottish American	519	-5	527	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1186	-29	1215½	815¼
Shires Inc.	311½#	-4½	316½	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	139		155	124
Standard Life Equity	415	-2	417	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	518	-5	531	426
Temple Bar.	378	-3½	386½	258
Templeton Emrg.	254½#		255	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	108½#	-2	111	84
Throgmorton Tst.	647	-6	653	469
TR Euro.Growth	222½	-2½	225	163
TR Prop. IT	331	-2½	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	315		322	222
Wwide Healthcare	373	-5	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3252	-109	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	378½	-½	385	301
Abrdn	218	-7¼	225¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	232½	-1¾	236¾	125
Guinness Peat Group	82¼	-1½	96	68¼
IG Group	1337	+9	1343	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	2022	-28	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	236½		237	121½
IP Group	57	+½	65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	184¾	-1½	186½	68
Liontrust Asset Man	259½	-8½	458	231½
London Stock Ex.	9082	-102	12095	8138
M&G	302¼	+2¾	303	172¾
Man Group	263	-8¾	271¾	154¾
Provident Financial	116½	-1½	128½	47¾
Rathbone Brothers	2180	-40	2230	1406
S & U	2270	-40	2360	1330
Schroders	456½	-10½	467	289¼
St James's Place	1484½	-31	1515½	791
Tullett Prebon	253½	-3	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13¼		15	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	359½	+1½	372¾	123¾
BT Group	185½#	+6½	222¾	139½
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1669	+14	2234	1418
Marks & Spencer	361½	-5½	411¼	318½
Ocado	262	-20	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	317½	+2½	355¾	228¾
Tesco	425¾	+3¾	475½	314½
Food Producers				
A.B. Foods.	1856	-2½	2337	1838
Anglo-Eastern	1460	-65	1525	612
Carr's Milling	135¾	-4¼	157	117
Cranswick.	5090#	-30	5490	4625
Glanbia	1265¾	-104	1369¾	789
Greencore Group	277#	+3½	279	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.	6484½	-156	8756	6172½
Premier Foods	171½	+¼	214½	167
REA Holdings	128½		133	61½
Tate & Lyle	365	-11¾	661	358
Gas, Water & Multiutilities				
Centrica	181½	-¾	183	132¼
National Grid	1196	-5½	1208	919¾
Pennon Group	555½	+10½	560	387½
Severn Trent	2874	+39	2907	2370
United Utilities	1228#	+3	1242	944½
General Industrials				
Bunzl	2046	-28	3452	2032
Goodwin	24300	-100	24500	6180
Melrose	616¾	-24	680	386
Mondi.	886½	-9½	1326	819
Smiths Group	2578	-34	2612	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3078	-95	4495	2558
General Retailers				
ASOS	286	-12	436½	218½
Auto Trader	569½#	-13½	908½	568½
B&M Europ Value Ret	170½	+2¾	344½	155¼
Caffyns	425		500	415
Dixons Carphone	127#	+1¼	146	85¼
Dunelm	953½	+3½	1232	858½
Frasers Group	677	+1½	770	546
Halfords Group	143¼	-1½	174½	116¼
Headlam Group.	45½	+¾	142	44½
Howden Joinery	845	-15	914½	679½
Inchcape	788	+2½	808	638
JD Sports	79½	-2	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	317¼	-1	329¾	238½
Next.	13950	+190	14580	9336
Pets At Home	198½	-1¾	273¼	192¾
RM Group.	111		118	82
Topps Tiles	44#	-½	50	29
WH Smith	699	+69½	1307	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	231¼	-5½	295½	221¼
Flying Brands	+½		2	+½
Smith & Nephew	1210	-26	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	378½	-2	482¼	350
Bellway	2730		2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3962	-18	4324	3524
Bovis Homes	644¼	-8	701	510¾
Mcbride.	143¾	-1¼	159	107
Persimmon	1411½	-3	1419	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6116		6228	4633
Taylor Wimpey	107½	+¾	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	749	-17½	774	460½
Hill & Smith	2290	-40	2360	1530
IMI	2644	-44	2688	1606
Morgan Crucible.	229	-7½	274	177½
Northgate	372½	-7	395	273½
Rotork	340¾	-6¼	352	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7050	-135	8190	5445
Vesuvius	421½	-8	438¼	313¾
Weir Group	3080	-8	3088	1984
Xaar	110	+2	145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings.	271	+4	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	72¾		110¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	228½	+1½	278	201
Clarkson	4150	-10	4505	2995
FirstGroup	186	-2½	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	374	+2	403	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop.	18070#	-700	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	137¼	-2½	230	132
Life Insurance				
Aviva	682	+6½	692½	493
Chesnara	300½	+1	304	212¾
Legal & General	267¾	+2	268¼	215¼
Phoenix Group	748½	+8	748½	499¼
Prudential	1195	+12½	1195½	652
Media				
4imprint Group	4350	-80	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	493½	-10½	672	468
Future.	492½#	-21½	1029	490¼
Informa	872½	-17	993½	640¼
ITV	79½	-1¼	87¾	66¼
Pearson	929¾	-9¼	1379	918½
Reach	54¼	-3¼	88¼	53
STV Group	111	-6	202½	103
Wilmington Group.	294½	-½	387	289
WPP Group	310½	-5	787¾	269
Mining				
Anglo American	3248	+8	3320	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	130½#	+½	132	50
Antofagasta.	3612	+52	3665	1383
BHP Billiton	2424	+5	2475	1609½
Endeavour Mining.	4096	+100	4152	1514
Fresnillo.	3996	+250	3996	657
Gem Diamonds.	3		12	2¾
Glencore	481	+2½	491	230
Hochschild Mining.	580	-5½	598	168
Kenmare Res.	265	-4	436	227
Petra Diamonds	16¾	-¾	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6339	-8	6468	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	102#	+1¼	103¾	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1250	-35	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2040	-20	2220	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	1170	+350	1199	769
Hiscox.	1516	+127	1516	1035
Lancashire	624	+24	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	437¾	-2½	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	223	-3	331½	183
Enquest	12		16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	182½	-3¾	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy.	210½	-1¼	294	151¼
Shell	2730	-22½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	21#	-¾	27½	18
Tullow Oil	7	-¼	23	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting.	407	-3	417	246½
John Wood Group	26¼	-¼	72½	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group	1236½	-35½	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	71	+½	88¼	66
Unilever.	4756	-5½	6177½	4631
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	13890	-162	14346	9667
Genus.	2835		2900	1548
GlaxoSmithKline	1816	-½	1901½	1264
Haleon	361	-2¾	415¼	326½
Hikma.	1543	-27	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold	1¼			
Oxford Biomedica	880	-19	913	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	223		237	196
Cardiff Property	2700#		2700	2540
CLS Holdings	59¾	-3	75	53½
Foxtons	52½	-½	67¾	52¼
Harworth Group	165	-½	189½	159½
Mountview Est.	8900	-100	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	290		320	280
Rightmove.	504¼	-11	823¾	502½
Savills	1082	-12	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	860	-15	900	695
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1068#	-8	1180	848
British Land	412½	+2¼	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	143	-1½	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1897	-1	2096	1608
Grainger	192½#	-2	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	344	-3	363	262
Hammerson	337¼	-3½	348¼	220½
Helical Bar	184¼	-1	240	171¾
Land Securities	654	+4	654	499½
London & Stamford Prop	202½	-1½	204½	170½
Primary Health.	104½		104¾	87½
SEGRO	740½	-7	751½	599
Town Centre	124	+2½	149	117
Unite Group	583		879½	510
Value & Income	200¼#	-3¾	215	173
Workspace Group	418½#	-½	478½	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter	3078	-70	3212	2086
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	294½	-1½	344	255
Moneysupermarket	185¾	-3¼	221½	180½
Pendragon	358	+6½	558	296
RELX	3014	-80	4135	2972
Sage Group	1036#	-18	1348	1035
Triad Group	245		400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	5110#	-192	5594	3659
Capita Group	396½	+4	407½	175
DCC	4418	-60	5600	4350
Diploma	5460#	-225	5685	3624
Essentra.	107½	+4¼	126¼	89¾
Experian Group	3249#	-47	4088	3091
Ferguson.	18250#	-510	19470	11670
Hays	45	-1¼	88¼	45
Intertek Group.	4554	-28	5385	4064
Johnson Service	144	+2½	159½	124
London Security	2850		3800	2600
Macfarlane Group	71	-½	120½	62¾
Mears Group.	345½	-½	417½	311½
Michael Page	199¼	-9¾	341¼	199¼
Mitie Group.	167½#	-2½	171½	112
Norish.	18¾		18¾	14
Paypoint	502	+13	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	453¾	-11	473½	309½
Robert Walters.	127½	-1½	315	116
RS Group.	640½	-8	681½	487¼
Serco Group	297½	+2½	299½	150
SIG	9¾	-¼	18	8½
Smiths News.	66½#	-2	77½	47½
Speedy Hire.	25#		32¼	18
SThree	178½	-4¼	289½	137½
Travis Perkins	648½	-13	714	494
Trifast	74¾	-2¼	87½	59
Vitec Group	12	-1	130¾	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	16	+½	19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4373#	+47	4421	2953
Imperial Brands	3099	+55	3312	2600
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	23¾	-¾	74	21
Carnival	2105	-59	2406	1134
Celtic.	200		210	142½
Compass Group	2283#	-8	2843	2278½
Domino's Pizza.	183¼	+1½	302¾	167¼
EasyJet.	483¾	-1½	587¾	427½
Entain.	687½	-15½	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	13585	-870	23630	13490
Fuller Smith & Turner	728	-2	738	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10131½	-149	10310¼	5528½
Intl Consolidated Airlines	410½		437	224½
Irish Continental Uts	560		575	380
Marston's	65½	+½	67	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	272	-4	291½	208½
National Express	21¾	-¾	78	21
Rank Group	98		160½	78
Saga	403	-11½	438	114
Wetherspoon (JD)	758	+3	804	541
Whitbread	2783	+1	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	245	-2½	395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	880		1100	837½
Boohoo	21¾	-¼	30½	10½
Camellia	4965		6050	4090
Churchill China	330	-5	710	312
CML Microsystems.	254	-11	335	210
Colefax Group	990		1000	750
CPP Group	81½		162	68½
Cropper (James)	378		400	132½
Falkland Islands.	251#		316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	875	-10	998	644½
Filtronic	181	-11	193	82½
James Halstead	136	-2	181½	133
Mothercare	2		4¼	1¾
Mpac Group	337½		586	270
Naked Wine.	69¾	-5¼	93½	43
Nichols.	1010	+10	1465	930
Northamber	31#		34	26¼
Portmeirion.	97½	-1	189	94
Regal Petroleum	16¼	+¼	24	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	69½	-½	87¾	33¼
Ten Alps	47½		73	46½
Titon Holdings	90	-2½	97½	69
Volex.	418	-16	443	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A.	817	-11	992	714

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Letters

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Blair knows more about war than keeping peace

IRONIC or plain stupid? Donald Trump's appointed the warmonger Tony Blair to his so-called "Board of Peace" ("Trump gives Tony Blair 'critical' new role with 7-word endorsement", January 17).

This is to oversee Trump's 20-point plan to bring peace to Gaza and manage reconstruction.

What message does Blair's appointment send to the Palestinians? A man who, on the flimsiest of evidence, attacked Iraq which led to a series of conflicts across the whole region, including the Hamas/Israeli war.

If Trump's intent is to transition Gaza into a theme and aqua park world of fantasy; Blair's just the man. A man with no sense of reality unless it makes him money.

Brett Trafford,
Vyne Park, Hants

Ex-Labour PM lied to the public over Iraq invasion

TONY BLAIR should not be involved with anything – he should have been punished for lying to the public and sending British troops to Iraq and then Afghanistan.

Sylvia Rylance,
Sunderland

Yesterday's man has still got blood on his hands

WHY can we never get Tony Blair back in his box? Does anyone retain any interest in what he has to say? Inviting him onto the board of management of the Gaza Strip post-war is insulting to all involved and a serious error of judgment.

This man's legacy will be the war in Iraq that cost so many lives and did nothing for the peace process in the Middle East – a war that he sponsored along with America.

This man is not even a Marmite figure, as no one actually likes him. We'll wait to find out just what part he will play in rebuilding Gaza, and resolving the ongoing disputes.

Anthony Richardson,
Stirling

Voters are turned off by the big guns firing blanks

I ENJOYED Kemi Badenoch's and Robert Jenrick's calls to support their respective parties to defeat Labour ("We will fix broken Britain... but not together!", January 17) – Keir Starmer and Ed Davey would doubtless say the same.

It reflects the factionalization of UK politics as voters become disillusioned with the main parties and become attracted to the Lib Dems, Greens, SNP, Plaid Cymru, Your Party, SDLP and Reform UK.

Who can say how all this will pan out at the next election? But I anticipate another very low turnout, with desperate last-minute coalitions to get some form of majority – God help us all!

Roy Daniels,
Kingsclere, Hants

The same old Tory as rat Jenrick leaves sinking ship

WELL, well, well. What a speech! The Tory party hasn't changed and will not change. It doesn't have the stomach for radical change and remains unapologetic for mistakes. So says Robert Jenrick of the party he was with for years.

His speech criticising colleagues and praising himself reveals a lot. It's all "me, me, me" and all sour grapes. He even spoke over his new boss. Why Nigel Farage accepted him is a mystery. As Kemi Badenoch said, he's not her problem any longer, but he could be Nigel's.

Anne Jones,
Stalybridge, Cheshire

Not even Kemi can save a party on its last legs

ROBERT Jenrick states the Tory party hasn't changed and it won't change. The bulk of the party don't get it. They don't have the stomach for the radical change this country needs, he says, and he's hit the nail on the head. There are too many Remainers and far too many are brainwashed products of Oxbridge, dedicated to maintaining the status quo. Kemi Badenoch is honest but her party is in terminal decline.

Brian Banks,
Ormskirk, Lancs

Reform UK new home for washed-up Conservatives

THE Tories were rightly voted out because of their poor performance. Unfortunately, the succeeding Labour mob has proved a disaster.

The alternative appeared to be Reform UK. Sadly, this is not the case. How can you form a political party consisting of hypocrites? How can they show solidarity when they have different beliefs?

The latest (big name) recruit, Robert Jenrick, is a confirmed Remainer yet jumps into bed with what was essentially the Brexit Party, an act of pure hypocrisy. So who do I vote for in future? Maybe emigration's the answer.

Wilf Yates,
Leigh, Gtr Manchester

Badenoch's fire has gone out and is a busted flush

I DON'T care much for Robert Jenrick, but his observations of the current Tory party leadership come as no surprise, and confirmed what was suspected already.

When Kemi Badenoch arrived on the scene the public had expected a firebrand, fire-eating dragon slayer; instead we got a defenestrated party apparatchik who finked on a fellow pupil at school.

I ask, is she PM material? I think not, and neither does anybody else. So give it up Kemi, you're a busted flush.

Ian Brown,
Feltham, Middx

The party's over and good MPs jump while they can

KEMI Badenoch claims bad people are leaving her party. She should have said, good people are leaving her bad party. Sour grapes, no?

John Fox,
St Brelade, Jersey

It's time to get down to some serious business

ONE hopes Kemi Badenoch replaces all defectors and future candidates with experience of commerce and running a business.

Running a country is much like running a business, and it's essential that they are able to make sound decisions based on experience.

Ron Cobb,
Lutterworth, Leics

Pothole money blown on fatcat leaders and DEIs

THERE has been much ado about the lack of action by councils on potholes. But they're missing the point. They have priorities over road safety – gold-plated pensions for fatcat executives and those vital diversity, equality and inclusion posts to pay for too.

Brian Earle,
Poole, Dorset

LETTER OF THE DAY

WORLD DOMINATION: US President Donald Trump

Bully Trump has got to be stopped now

HOW can anyone unilaterally declare that just because that someone wants something that belongs to someone else then you should be given it ("Fears Trump's tariffs threat will rip Nato apart", January 19)?

This is currently the stance being adopted by the US President Donald Trump regarding his desire to occupy and own Greenland for the future security of America and its people.

However, can that be seen as justification for Trump to bully America's friends and allies around the world into submitting to his demands because of his stated threat of imposing punitive tariffs? And how is that conducive to good international relations?

America should think again.

Alan Ogden,
Gomersal, WYorks

UNITED WE STAND BEHIND CARRICK AFTER DEMOLITION DERBY

AS A PROUD Mancunian and a lifelong Manchester United fan, winning the derby at the weekend and playing the way we did has brought some hope of Champions League football next season ("Tot you a lesson", January 19).

Whatever happened behind the scenes, I can only imagine Michael Carrick had a huge influence in both strategy and energy. What really warmed my heart was the big fist in the air at the end toward Sir Alex Ferguson who had a beaming smile.

Still a way to go but the signs are there.

Peter Rushton,
Chorley, Lancs

TODAY: Tuesday January 20, 2026

ON THIS DAY

DAILY EXPRESS
11 HELD IN GUN SIEGE
My tug o' war!

53 years ago (1973)
Gunmen holding 11 hostages were trapped in a New York firearms store, surrounded by hundreds of police after shooting dead one officer and wounding three others.

We also said the Government had sent a fast, ocean-going tugboat to protect British trawlers amid the so-called Cod War with Iceland over fishing rights.

A deal over fishing quotas was finally reached through Nato in 1976.

65 years ago (1961)
John F Kennedy was sworn in as the 35th President of the USA, becoming the second youngest person to hold the office and the first Catholic.

He spoke the famous lines: "My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

24 years ago (2002)
Photos released by the Pentagon of prisoners who were being held at a US military jail at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba provoked worldwide outrage over human rights violations.

The Camp X-Ray detainees were pictured wearing orange jumpsuits, kneeling down and being subjected to sensory deprivation.

BIRTHDAYS

Astronaut **Buzz Aldrin** is 96. His mother's maiden name was Moon. Singer **Gary Barlow** is 55. He wrote the theme tune to the Paddington TV show. Actor **Tom Baker** is 92. He joined a religious order at 15. Musician **Paul Stanley** is 74. He was the lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist in Kiss.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

I got sacked from my job at the keyboard factory. I wasn't putting in enough shifts.

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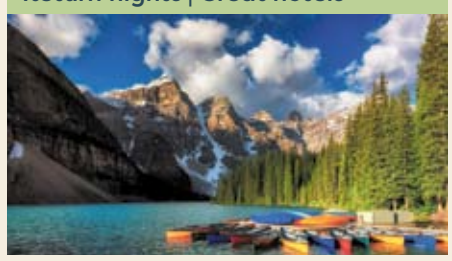

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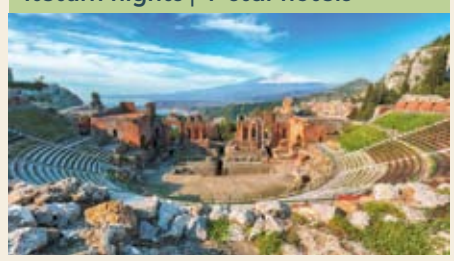

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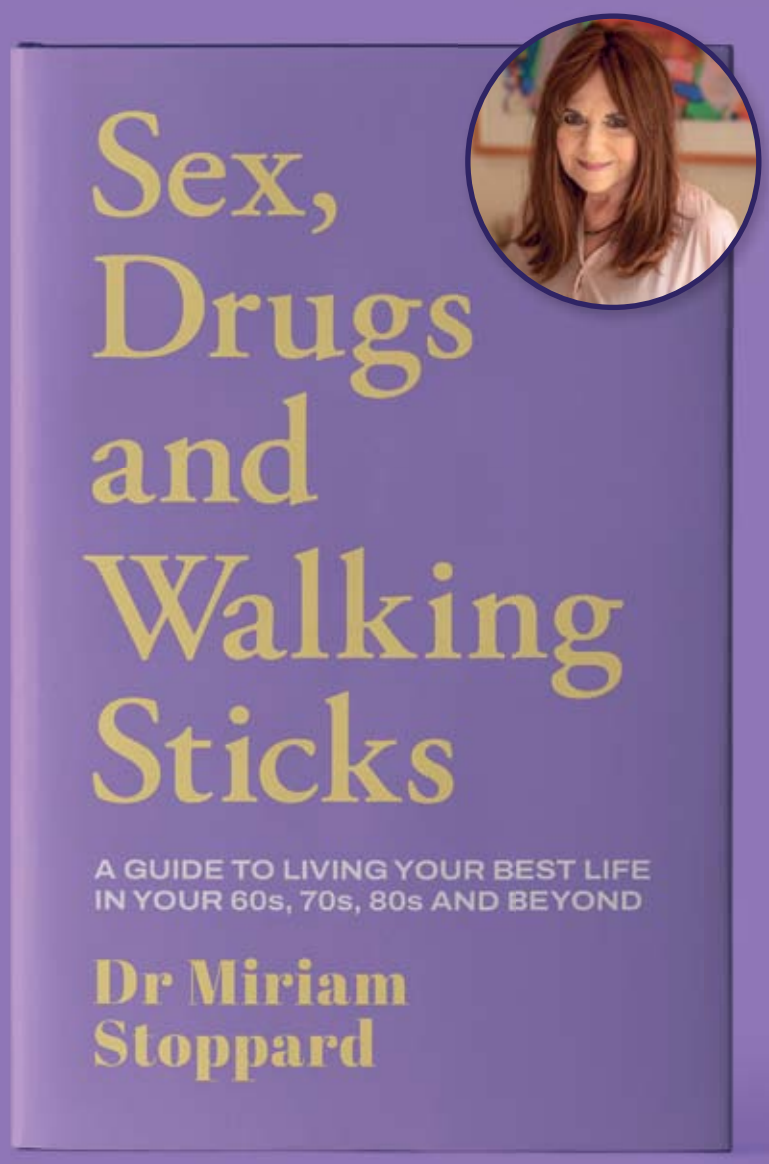
Trustpilot

Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard



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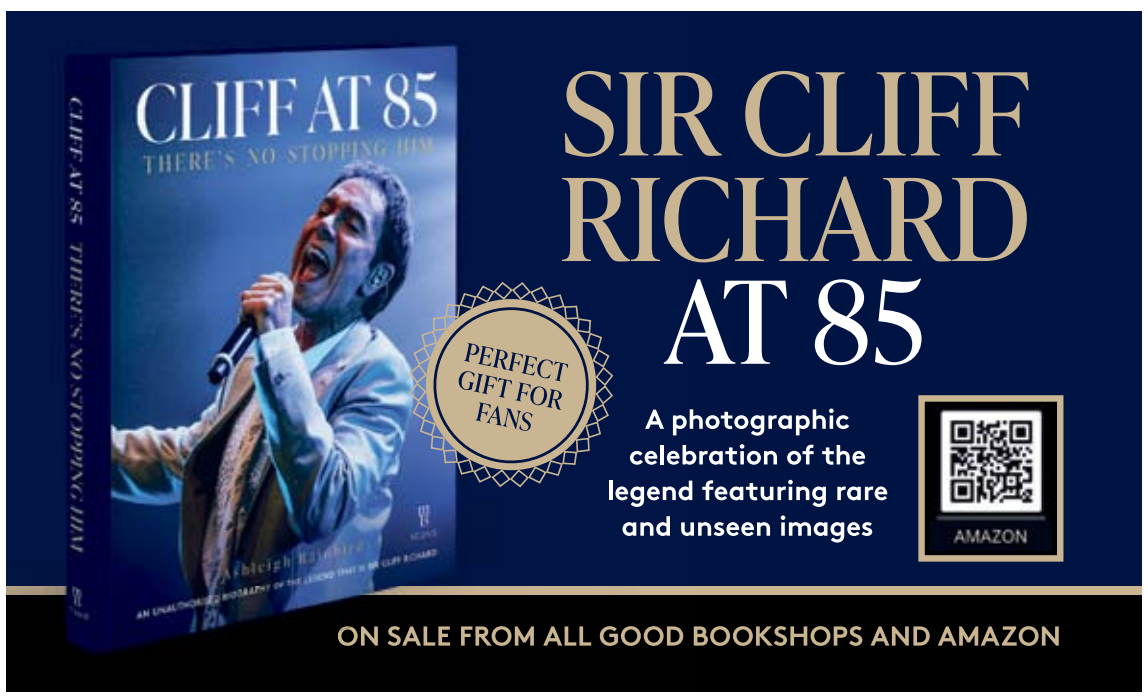
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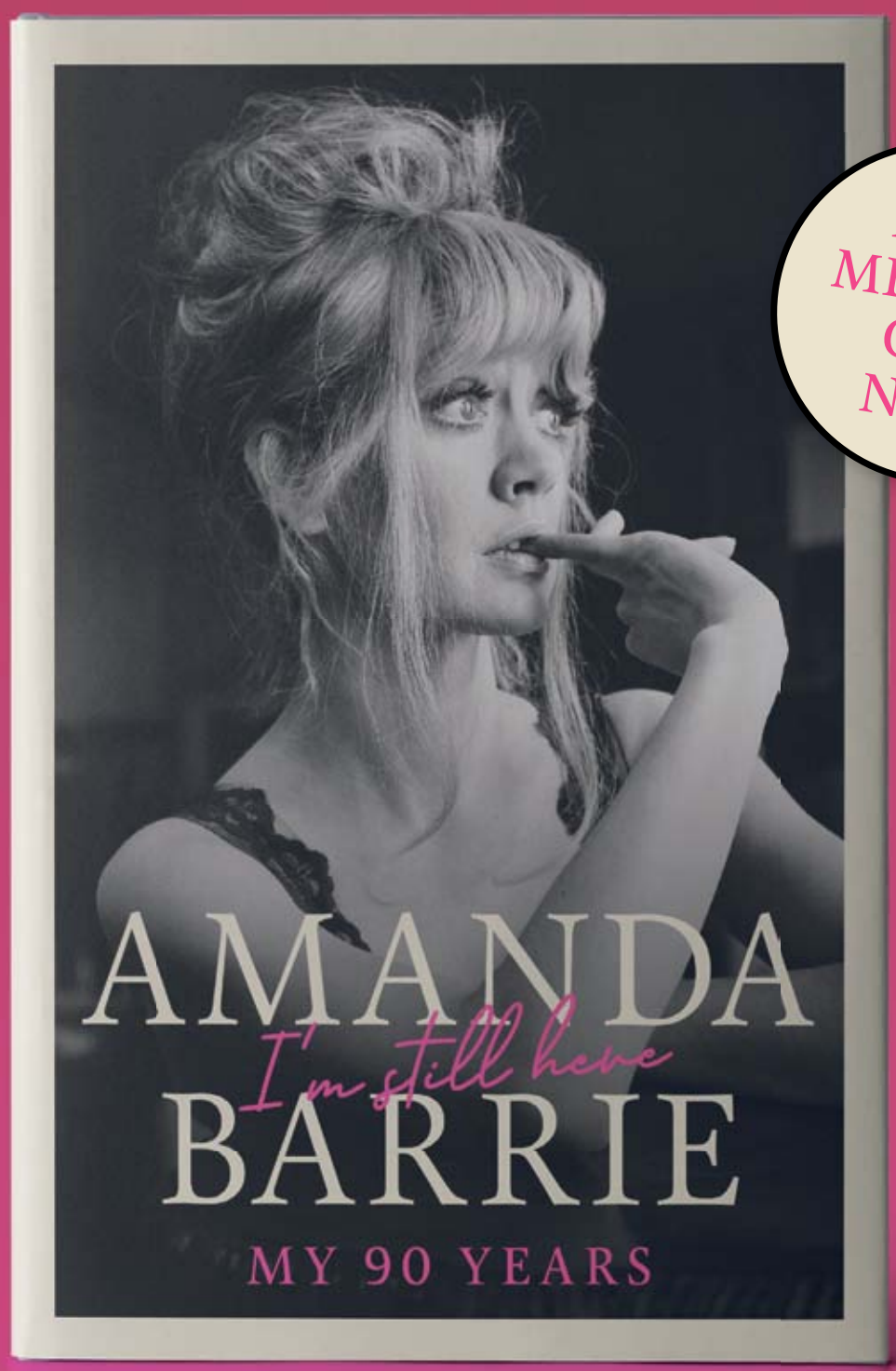

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Racing

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Smoke can benefit from the longer trip

By The Scout

PEARL SMOKE (4.02, Nap) is a rare find in the Watch On Racing TV 'Hands & Heels' Mares' Handicap Hurdle at Leicester.

The five-year-old has been beaten an average of 24 lengths in her three runs over hurdles for co-trainers Oliver Greenall, right, and Josh Guerriero.

But she can do better at today's 2m 4f trip, given her dam Pearlita and full sister Pearl Island won at three miles.

Both were longer term projects like Pearl Smoke, whose yard has excellent form in handicaps this season. Grade One-entered STARZAND (1.32, trb) should be able to give 5lb to Ubatuba, an impressive recent 16-length course and distance winner.

My selection looks to have the stronger form, as he was beaten less than two lengths by useful recruit Bossman Jack at Ffos Las over an inadequate trip.

HUNKY DORY (5.30, nb) is fancied to go in off his new mark of 77 in Southwell's Midnite A Next Generation Betting App Handicap.

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JOE'S LUCKY ESCAPE

EXCLUSIVE
By Melissa Jones

Leavy returns after a life-threatening crash

CHAMPION apprentice Joe Leavy has opened up on his brush with death in a serious car accident ahead of his return to race-riding.

Leavy was in intensive care after he was airlifted to Oxford's John Radcliffe hospital from the scene of the crash near Hungerford, Berkshire on November 30.

British Flat racing's top apprentice had ridden a winner at Wolverhampton hours before the single vehicle collision just after 1am.

"I don't know what happened," said Leavy, 20, who was in the car with weighing room colleague Will Carver and a female passenger.

"The first thing I remember is waking up in hospital and my mum was by my side. I feel very lucky to be alive, it could have been so much worse."

Leavy, back in action with four rides at Kempton Park tomorrow, broke his jaw and underwent an operation to have two plates inserted, which meant his diet was mostly restricted to liquids for a month.

Leavy said: "I physically couldn't move my jaw so it was awkward to eat. I also had whiplash from the accident.

"Thankfully it didn't stop me going to the gym and I was able to build my fitness back up. It was about six weeks before I got back on a horse."

Leavy spent five days a week at the jockeys' rehab centre Oaksey House in Lambourn where he exercised and underwent physiotherapy.

The partner of 41 winners in the 2025 championship has been riding out for Richard Hannon, provider of his comeback mount Celestique in a seven furlong maiden event.

Leavy will also team up with Joolianoss for James Evans, the handler of Landlordtothestars, who Leavy won on at Wolverhampton around six hours before the accident.

"I'm grateful to everyone who has supported me," said the rider, aiming to beat his annual best of 63 winners in 2026.

BACK IN ACTION: Joe Leavy has four rides at Kempton Park tomorrow

NEWCASTLE SSR

THE SCOUT

12.43 Selenic
1.13 Chris's Mate
1.43 Egotistical
2.13 Aisling Oscar
2.43 Betsen
3.13 Ana Emaraaty
3.43 Eco Power Boy
4.13 Mersea

1.43 MIDNITE NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) £5,400 (4) 5f (10)

1 (5) 4-3 **MR DREAMSELLER (19)** D & N Barron 4 10-2 ..... **D Nolan** 54
2 (3) 2- **DANDY BREEZE (42) (F)** B Smart 3 9-1 ..... **P Mulrennan** 69
3 (1) 22- **STARRYFIELD (22) (T)** James Owen 3 9-1 ..... **L Morris** 67
4 (7) 06- **BATTENBURG BELLE (22)** R Menzies 3 8-10 ..... **A Mullen** 48
5 (10) 3- **CAILEAG AISLING (42)** L Russell & M Scudamore 3 8-10 **O McSweeney** 57
6 (4) 2L455-6 **COUNTRY ARTISTE (14)** Craig Lidster 3 8-10 **Joanna Mason** 70
7 (9) 3- ● **EGOTISTICAL (33) (T)** R Varian 3 8-10 ..... **R Scott** 59
8 (8) 45- **HARMONISED (25)** K Ryan 3 8-10 ..... **S Gray** 64
9 (6) 35L348- **HAVIN A FLYER (22)** R Menzies 3 8-10 **T Kiely-Marshall(5)** 60
10 (2) 42-3 **MAD DASH (18) (T)** A Balding 3 8-10 ..... **P J McDonald** ★71
TONGUE STRAP: No. 9 HOOD: No. 8.

SP FORECAST: 3 Dandy Breeze, 7-2 Starryfield, 4 Mad Dash, 6 Egotistical, 7 Harmonised, 10 Country Artiste, 14 Caileag Aisling, Mr Dreamseller, 33 Others.

12.43 MIDNITE BETTING APP HANDICAP £3,716 (Class 5) 1m 2f 42yds (11 declared)

1 (1) 3L762L- **SWORD OF WESSEX (124) (T)** James Owen 4 9-11 ..... **C Hardie** 81
2 (4) 6/L0146- **HAVEYOUMISSEDME (35) (C)** I Jardine 8 9-11 ..... **A Mullen** 79
3 (7) 85L02L- **LIGHTENING COMPANY (54) (D)** B Haslam 8 9-10 **P Mulrennan** 79
4 (2) 21-6 ● **SELENIC (14) (T)** Sir M Prescott 4 9-8 ..... **L Morris** 74
5 (8) 68L33L- **IMPERIAL TROOPER (94)** J Candlish 4 9-8 ..... **G Wood** 81
6 (11) 35716-2 **GOLSPIE (17) (C&D)** P Morris 6 9-5 ..... **D Nolan** 79
7 (10) LL87L7- **CAVALRY CALL (54) (D)** R M Smith 5 9-5 ..... **S B Kirrane** ★83
8 (6) 66512-4 **PRINCE ACHILLE (31) (C&D)** J O'Keeffe 7 9-4 ..... **B Garritty** 80
9 (5) /00722- **JACK SPAROWE (98) (F) (T)** J Butler 7 9-4 **P J McDonald** 82
10 (3) 25552-9 **MAUI BREEZE (10)** W Storey 4 9-3 ..... **Paula Muir(3)** 81
11 (9) 46524-1 **KING CHAOS (11) (C,F)** R Menzies 5 9-2 ..... **Kaiya Fraser** 79
TONGUE STRAP: No. 11 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 11.

SP FORECAST: 3 King Chaos, 4 Selenic, 9-2 Jack Sparowe, 6 Golspie, 8 Prince Achille, 10 Sword Of Wessex, Haveyoumissedme, 20 Maui Breeze, 33 Others.

1.13 BETMGM CLASSIFIED STAKES £3,140 (6) 7f 14yds (12)

1 (7) 8355-44 **CATHERINE CHROI (10) (C,D)** I Jardine 8 9-9 ..... **M Tabti(5)** 51
2 (4) 649/457- ● **CHRIS'S MATE (35)** Mr W G Harrison 5 9-9 ..... **G Wood** 53
3 (10) 7827-94 **DASH POWER (3)** L Mullaney 5 9-9 ..... **S B Kirrane** 55
4 (8) 601L8-0 **GREEN VALENTINE (19) (C)** A Brown 5 9-9 ..... **B McHugh** 59
5 (6) 11446-L **RING OF GOLD (14) (C&D)** M & D Easterby 9 9-9 ..... **B Garritty** 60
6 (1) 32667-L **ROCK MASTER (16) (T)** A Carroll 4 9-9 ..... **R Kavanagh(5)** 52
7 (11) 4866-53 **RORY (11) (C,D)** J Goldie 8 9-9 ..... **P Mulrennan** 54
8 (3) 7409-5L **SHE'SASHAMBLES (10)** Phillip Makin 5 9-9 ..... **R Scott** 44
9 (9) 4L040-7 **SIR MAXI (10) (C&D)** S England 8 9-9 ..... **S Gray** 59
10 (2) 51333-2 **SUPERIOR COUNCIL (10) (C,F)** I Jardine 7 9-9 **C Tuke(7)** ★61
11 (5) 63990-7 **THE GAY BLADE (11) (C,D)** I Jardine 7 9-9 ..... **Doubtful** –
12 (12) L4LL0-L **WEE NAN (11)** A Brown 4 9-9 ..... **Doubtful** –
BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 3, 7, 9, 10 VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 10 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 6, 12 HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Superior Council, 7-2 Rory, 6 Ring Of Gold, 7 Catherine Chroi, 10 Sir Maxi, 12 Green Valentine, 14 Dash Power, Chris's Mate, 16 Others.

2.13 BETMGM'S GOLDEN GOALS HANDICAP £4,711 (6) 1m 5yds (10)

1 (1) 664725- **JOSEPH (29) (T)** J Butler 4 9-9 ..... **J Nicholls(5)** 74
2 (6) 72321-6 **TASEVER (10) (C&D)** P Morris 6 9-8 ..... **D Nolan** 74
3 (7) L27L5-4 **SEA LEGEND (10) (C)** J Goldie 6 9-8 ..... **P Mulrennan** 74
4 (10) 4455L9- **SAMRA STAR (22) (C)** Miss L Perratt 5 9-7 ..... **Kaiya Fraser** 75
5 (2) 67/4252- **ROGUE OFFICER (99)** A Brittain 4 9-6 ..... **C Hardie** 71
6 (5) 113304- **FALCON NINE (32)** I Jardine 6 9-5 ..... **M Tabti(5)** 74
7 (9) 664- **MALI AND ME (35)** M Dods 4 9-4 ..... **Joanna Mason** 67
8 (3) 31111-1 ● **AISLING OSCAR (7) (C&D,S)** A Keatley 5 9-4 **O McSweeney** ★76
9 (4) 327022- **LITTLE TED (22) (C&D)** T Easterby 9 9-2 ..... **S B Kirrane** 74
10 (8) 06356L- **CHIEFMAN (J50) (C)** R M Smith 5 8-4 ..... **Amie Waugh(3)** 72
BLINKERS: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: No. 10 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 9, 10 HOOD: Nos. 3, 5.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Aisling Oscar, 4 Little Ted, 8 Rogue Officer, Sea Legend, 10 Tasever, Joseph, 12 Falcon Nine, 14 Mali And Me, 25 Others.

2.43 BET BUILDERS AT MIDNITE HANDICAP £7,956 (3) 6f (7)

1 (2) 008054- **BADRI (42) (C&D)** M Herrington 9 9-9 ..... **L Morris** 96
2 (7) 970U03- **COACHELLO (21) (C&D) (T)** M Loughnane 8 9-7 ..... **G Wood** 96
3 (4) 682071- ● **BETSEN (55) (D) (T)** A Carroll 5 9-5 ..... **R Kavanagh(5)** ★101
4 (3) 3072L-0 **ABERAMA GOLD (19) (D)** D O'Meara 9 9-2 ..... **B Garritty** 98
5 (6) 7/06LL0- **THE BELL CONDUCTOR (128) (C,D)** I Furtado 9 9-2 **B McHugh** 98
6 (1) 61447-L **NORTHERN SPIRIT (3) (C&D)** B Ellison 6 9-0 ..... **B Robinson** 96
7 (5) 80309-3 **SILKY WILKIE (13) (D,F)** K R Burke 7 8-13 ..... **J Nicholls(5)** 99
VISOR: Nos. 4, 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Betsen, 3 Badri, 4 Silky Wilkie, 9-2 Coachello, 10 Northern Spirit, 14 Aberama Gold, 20 The Bell Conductor.

3.13 MIDNITE BETTING HANDICAP (DIV 1) £4,711 (6) 6f (9)

1 (9) 63115-1 **TEARDROPS (7) (C&D,F) (T)** R Spencer 4 10-0(5ex) ..... **G Wood** 63
2 (4) 465733- ● **ANA EMARAATY (22) (C&D,F)** J Goldie 6 9-8 ..... **P Mulrennan** 66
3 (5) L232-11 **SPARTAN FIGHTER (10) (C&D)** A Brittain 9 9-8 ..... **C Hardie** 63
4 (6) 04/LL- **CORDELIN (22)** J Norton 5 9-6 ..... **B McHugh** –
5 (8) 41L050- **TICKETS (35) (C&D)** B Haslam 7 9-6 ..... **A Mullen** 59
6 (1) 5735-45 **AUNTIE JO (11)** D O'Meara 4 9-5 ..... **B Robinson** ★67
7 (2) 0842-52 **FIRCOMBE HALL (10) (C&D)** P Kirby 8 9-1 ..... **Rhys Elliott(5)** 63
8 (7) 3L594-2 **YAAHOBBY (19) (C,D)** A Brittain 7 9-0 ..... **A Jary(3)** 61
9 (3) L4LL0-L **WEE NAN (11)** A Brown 4 9-0 ..... **S B Kirrane** 59
BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 2 VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 8 CHEEK PIECES: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 2 Teardrops, 7-2 Spartan Fighter, 5 Ana Emaraaty, 6 Yaahobby, 7 Fircombe Hall, 8 Auntie Jo, 20 Tickets, 50 Wee Nan, Cordelin.

3.43 MIDNITE BETTING HANDICAP (DIV 2) £4,711 (6) 6f (8)

1 (8) 40332-5 **INSTANT BOND (10) (T)** M Wigham 5 9-9 ..... **P Mulrennan** ★66
2 (5) 52348-4 **ASADJUMEIRAH (10) (C&D)** A Brittain 8 9-8 ..... **C Hardie** 63
3 (6) 765/65-2 ● **ECO POWER BOY (19) (F)** S Spencer 5 9-7 ..... **G Sanna(5)** 62
4 (3) 0345-33 **RAMON DI LORIA (10) (C,D)** Ewan Whillans 8 9-6 ..... **R Scott** 65
5 (7) 22113-4 **YORKSHIRE GLORY (10) (C&D)** B Haslam 5 9-5 ..... **A Mullen** 64
6 (2) 6399O-7 **THE GAY BLADE (11) (C&D)** I Jardine 7 9-2 ..... **C Tuke(7)** 54
7 (1) 48790-8 **BERNIE THE BEAR (19) (C&D)** Miss L Perratt 6 9-0 **Kaiya Fraser** 50
8 (4) 08/L97L-8 **ADOSA (33) (C&D)** P Morris 5 9-0 ..... **JP Sullivan** 48
TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Eco Power Boy, 7-2 Instant Bond, 4 Yorkshire Glory, 9-2 Ramon Di Loria, 6 Asadjumeirah, 10 The Gay Blade, 25 Others.

4.13 MAKE THE MOVE TO MIDNITE HANDICAP £3,716 (5) 5f (11)

1 (1) 14L48-9 **DARK KESTREL (19) (C&D)** A Brittain 6 9-9 ..... **C Hardie** 78
2 (11) 330422- **GANESHA (35) (C&D,F)** Phillip Makin 5 9-5 ..... **R Scott** 78
3 (2) 24394-8 **DARLO PRIDE (19) (C&D)** M Dods 6 9-5 ..... **Rhys Elliott(5)** 79
4 (4) 843451- **OUR ABSENT FRIENDS (35) (C&D)** T Davidson 8 9-4 **O McSweeney** 78
5 (8) 333245- **DANDY DINMONT (32) (C&D)** N Tinkler 7 9-4 **F McManoman** ★82
6 (3) 1456L4- **HARB (35) (D)** T Davidson 7 9-3 ..... **L Morris** 77
7 (9) 62713-0 **BIBENDUM (18) (C&D)** J Camacho 5 9-0 ..... **G Wood** 79
8 (10) L0786-5 ● **MERSEA (14) (C,D)** G Tuer 6 9-0 ..... **S B Kirrane** 71
9 (6) 341168- **THUNDERSTORM KATIE (35) (C&D)** J Goldie 5 9-0 **Shay Farmer(7)** 77
10 (5) 7861-22 **DIGITAL (7) (C&D)** R Carr 8 8-12 ..... **JP Sullivan** 80
11 (7) 5L241-L **DOON THE GLEN (19) (C)** J Goldie 6 8-4 ..... **Amie Waugh(3)** 77
BLINKERS: 3 VISOR: 7 TONGUE STRAP: 1, 3 CHEEK PIECES: 5, 10.

SP FORECAST: 3 Digital, 4 Our Absent Friends, 9-2 Ganesha, 7 Dandy Dinmont, 8 Harb, 14 Bibendum, Mersea, 16 Thunderstorm Katie, Dark Kestrel, 20 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Paul Mulrennan 14% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** J Goldie 12% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.13 Wee Nan (cheek pieces), 1.43 Havin A Flyer (tongue strap), 2.43 The Bell Conductor (wind surgery), Northern Spirit (visor), 3.43 Instant Bond (tongue strap), Yorkshire Glory (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.43 Selenic(hcp). 1.43 Starryfield. 2.43 Silky Wilkie(hcp). 3.43 Instant Bond(hcp), Yorkshire Glory(hcp). 4.13 Digital(hcp), Ganesha(hcp). **DRAW:** High numbers have a slight advantage over 5f. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Mad Dash** (1.43) 303 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.43 **Sword Of Wessex** from C Fellowes to James Owen. 2.13 **Rogue Officer** from P Chapple-Hyam to A Brittain.

RESULTS

KEMPTON: Standard to slow

1.08–TOKEN GESTURE (H Doyle, 6-1) 1; Apache Green (15-2) 2; Mbappe (11-4 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 0l, ¾l. (M Usher; 7-4 fav Super Hit). Tote: Token Gesture £7.00; pl Token Gesture £2.00, Apache Green £1.80, Mbappe £1.30. exacta: Token Gesture, Apache Green £50.40. tricast: Token Gesture, Apache Green, Mbappe £141.07. trifecta: Token Gesture, Apache Green, Mbappe £169.60. CSF: Token Gesture, Apache Green £51.00.

Following a stewards' inquiry, Apache Green who finished 1st was disqualified and placed 2nd.

1.38–DR ALI (J Peate, 14-1) 1; Magna (13-8 fav) 2; Respectable Jack (9-4 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. nk, ns. (J R Jenkins). Tote: £15.00; pl £3.20, £1.20, £1.40. exacta: £44.30. tricast: £73.84. trifecta: £141.60. CSF: £37.71.

2.08–HELGA (O Murphy, 7-2) 1; Distorted Truth (10-3 jt 2nd fav) 2; Misty Cove (10-3 jt 2nd fav) 3. 9 ran. 1¾l, 1l. (A Balding; 13-8 fav Galistra). Tote: £4.50; pl £1.40, £1.50, £1.10. exacta: £18.50. trifecta: £51.60. CSF: £15.89.

2.38–CALIBAN (O Murphy, 8-13 fav) 1; Summer Appeal (80-1) 2; Siouxfonic (15-8 2nd fav) 3. 10 ran. 3¾l, 2¼l. (A Balding). Tote: £1.62; pl £1.10, £12.60, £1.10. exacta: £86.80. trifecta: £197.60. CSF: £104.48.

3.08–UP THE AGENDA (D Muscutt, 6-5 fav) 1; Unionville (5-1) 2; Space Bear (9-2 jt 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. nk, ½l. (Jack Morland). Tote: £2.20; pl £1.20, £3.00. exacta: £9.70. trifecta: £35.50. CSF: £8.05.

3.38–YOUR LOVE (G Wood, 9-4 2nd fav) 1; Shallow (5-6 fav) 2; Handle With Care (17-2) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 2½l, ½l. (R Spencer). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.40, £1.20. exacta: £4.40. trifecta: £15.60. CSF: £4.63. Non-runners: Cressida Wildes, Gogo Yubari.

4.08–I'M WORKIN ON IT (L Edmunds, 6-5 fav) 1; Party Bear (15-2) 2; Exposay (28-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. ns, hd. (B Millman). Tote: £2.20; pl £1.30, £2.10, £7.50. exacta: £13.90. tricast: £185.86. trifecta: £304.50. CSF: £11.36.

Jackpot: £10,000.00, with £12,212.50 carried over.
Placepot: £11.50
Quadpot: £4.10

LINGFIELD: Soft-good to soft in places; awt: standard to slow

12.50–BROKEN VOW (S Bowen, 20-1) 1; Itsinthename (5-4 fav) 2; Le Cold Grey (8-1) 3. 6 ran. hd, 1½l. (O Murphy). Tote: £21.00; pl £2.20, £1.40. exacta: £60.00. trifecta: £353.50. CSF: £47.47.

1.20–WONDERING WHY (B R Jones, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; Jamada (10-1) 2; Zamek (9-4 fav) 3; Sense Of Reason (66-1) 4. 18 ran. 5l, 2l, ½l. (B Pauling). Tote: £3.70; pl £1.30, £3.90, £1.60. exacta: £35.80. trifecta: £145.90. CSF: £30.00.

1.50–AWORKINPROGRESS (J M Davies, 11-2) 1; Catch Catchfire (7-1) 2; Invincible Nao (10-1) 3. H'cap 14 ran. nk, 12l. (N Gifford; 3-1 fav Hidden History). Tote: £6.50; pl £1.90, £3.00, £3.70. exacta: £59.10. tricast: £391.59. trifecta: £730.00. CSF: £41.66. Non-runners: Ken Roy, Special John.

2.20–LUWDVIG (J Quinlan, 8-1) 1; Godot (18-1) 2; Karton Plein (5-1 jt fav) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 4½l, ¾l. (N King; 5-1 jtfav Raffles Nobu). Tote: £11.70; pl £3.80, £4.60, £2.30. exacta: £227.20. tricast: £804.66. trifecta: £2122.20. CSF: £147.89.

2.50–BOLLIN THOU (S Bowen, 1-3 fav) 1; Inion Tiogair (12-1) 2; Court One (9-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 12l, 19l. (Nick Scholfield). Tote: £1.34; pl £1.10, £3.60. exacta: £4.60. trifecta: £16.80. CSF: £4.95.

3.20–ICAQUE DE L'ISLE (H Bannister, 8-1) 1; Thruthelookinglass (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Felton Bellevue (10-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. ½l, 17l. (R Bandey; 10-3 fav Montmartin). Tote: £9.00; pl £2.20, £2.10, £2.40. exacta: £50.00. tricast: £285.03. trifecta: £286.40. CSF: £37.19. Non-runners: Better Off Alone, Star Of Diamonds.

3.50–GWENNIE MAY JEM (S Bowen, 6-1) 1; Ronnies Reflection (12-1) 2; Begin The Luck (8-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 10l, 6½l. (O Murphy; 7-2 fav Stardhem). Tote: £7.00; pl £2.50, £3.90, £1.90. exacta: £101.20. tricast: £588.10. trifecta: £685.40. CSF: £75.80.

Placepot: £171.10 Quadpot: £43.00

WOLVERHAMPTON: Standard

5.30–TENADAAY (G Mangan, 12-1) 1; Late Claim (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Eutropia (9-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 2½l, 11½l. (F O'Brien; 5-6 fav Ice Opera). Tote: £13.00; pl £3.00, £1.70, £2.20. exacta: £69.50. tricast: £463.36. trifecta: £825.40. CSF: £59.14.

6.00–AL BAAHY (B Loughnane, 11-2) 1; Al Shabab (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Relevant Range (11-10 fav) 3. 11 ran. ¾l, ¾l. (K Frost). Tote: £6.50; pl £1.60, £1.50, £1.20. exacta: £23.40. trifecta: £69.10. CSF: £23.47. Non-runner: Port Noir.

6.30–ALASRAE (B Loughnane, 11-10 fav) 1; Adalida (11-2) 2; Arishka's Dream (9-4 2nd fav) 3. 9 ran. 1¾l, 1½l. (G Boughey). Tote: £2.10; pl £1.10, £1.80, £1.10. exacta: £7.80. trifecta: £16.60. CSF: £8.21.

7.00–ADDARELLA (M Ghiani, 12-1) 1; Water Of Leith (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Phoenix Of Dreams (8-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 2½l, shd. (M Botti; 9-4 fav Zoulu Warrior). Tote: £13.00; pl £2.70, £1.50, £3.10. exacta: £68.10. tricast: £317.82. trifecta: £778.30. CSF: £49.31.

7.30–VINCE LOMBARDI (D Swift, 16-1) 1; Arantes Nascimento (9-2) 2; Star Of Mali (11-4 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. nk, 1l. (S Spencer). Tote: £17.80; pl £3.90, £2.00, £1.50. exacta: £137.70. tricast: £266.43. trifecta: £817.10. CSF: £87.85.

8.00–HARDSTYLE (B Loughnane, 2-5 fav) 1; Electrocution (33-1) 2; Blue Mountains (11-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 2¾l, 2¾l. (G Boughey). Tote: £1.40; pl £1.02, £8.10, £2.70. exacta: £24.90. tricast: £104.10. trifecta: £239.90. CSF: £31.45.

8.30–MASTER DANDY (B Loughnane, 15-8 2nd fav) 1; Colors Of Freedom (13-8 fav) 2; Second Collection (10-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. nk, 1l. (Michael Keady). Tote: £3.40; pl £1.60, £1.50. exacta: £6.20. tricast: £21.38. trifecta: £25.10. CSF: £5.43. Non-runners: Blue Dandy, Sultan Of Oj.

Placepot: £27.50
Quadpot: £6.70

LEICESTER RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

1.32 STARZAND	3.02 Tigers Moon
2.02 Jipcot	3.32 Kapamazov
2.32 Seaview Rock	4.02 PEARL SMOKE (nap)

1.32 LEICESTERRACES NOVICES' HURDLE
£5,281 (Class 4) 2m 4f 110yds (8 declared)

1 2-L1 **HOT TO GO (64) (C)** N & W Twiston-Davies 5 11-12 — S Twiston-Davies 104
2 2/342-1L **SKUNA BAY (44)** D McCain 7 11-12 — T Gillard 119
3 2/11-12 ● **STARZAND (12) (D) (S)** P Hobbs & J White 6 11-12 — Sean Houlihan ★123
4 U1-1 **UBATUBA (47) (C&D)** O Murphy 6 11-12 — B Sutton(5) 120
5 5/L **BRESILIANT (48)** V Williams 9 11-5 — C Deutsch 111
6 23-3PL **COULD BE YOU (8)** R Potter 6 11-5 — H Kimber 96
7 2-76 **TOMBEREAU (23)** S Edmunds 5 11-5 — C Hammond –
8 4243/66 **FINE AS WINE (32)** G Hanmer 8 10-12 — B Macey(7) 97

SP FORECAST: 6-5 Starzand, 9-4 Ubatuba, 9-2 Skuna Bay, 7 Hot To Go, 25 Bresiliant, 33 Tombereau, 50 Fine As Wine, 100 Could Be You.
2025: Kepler's Law 6-11-5, Adam Wedge 7-4 (L Morgan), 6 ran.

2.02 KUBE - LEICESTER HANDICAP CHASE
£7,393 (3) 2m 6f 151yds (7)

1 L53/F-P6 **LAC DE CONSTANCE (55)** D Skelton 10 12-0 — T Durrell –
2 1340P-3 ● **JIPCOT (18)** J & A O'Neill 7 11-12 — K Woods 130
3 43P-F41 **HAPPY AND FINE (20) (C)** A Hales 9 11-10 — T Broughton(5) 127
4 LP-P1P2 **TARAS HALLS (21)** J Parkinson & S Smith 8 11-9 — D McMenamin 126
5 2L15/44- **LANDEN CALLING (452)** F O'Brien 10 11-8 — J J Burke –
6 6-12111 **HEEZTHEBOY (23) (C)** G Hanmer 9 11-1 — J Hogan ★131
7 L1L-712 **NO TACKLE (30) (C&D)** R L Llewellyn 9 11-0 — L Harrison 129

BLINKERS: No. 4 VISOR: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 6, 2, 1, 7.
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Heeztheboy, 4 Happy And Fine, 9-2 Taras Halls, 6 No Tackle, 8 Landen Calling, Jipcot, 10 Lac De Constance.
2025: Hunter Legend 8-11-2, Charlie Deutsch 11-10 Fav (V Williams), 4 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Heavy. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Sean Bowen 22% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** O Murphy 24% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 2.02 Landen Calling (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 2.32 Josh Central (hood), Kastellion (wind surgery), 3.02 Morning Air (wind surgery), Bossofthebus (tongue strap), Ilot De L'isle (cheek pieces, wind surgery), 4.02 Walkinthecotswolds (blinkers), Natus Vincere (tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 3.02 At The Oche(hcp hdl), Razzle Dazzle Boy(hcp hdl). 4.02 Take A Hike(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: River Run Free** (3.32) 176 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.32 **Tombereau** from M to S Edmunds. 3.32 **Hall Lane** from A King to F O'Brien. 4.02 **Natus Vincere** from L Morgan to O Murphy.

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

2.32 JOIN RACING TV NOW MAIDEN HURDLE
£5,446 (4) 1m 7f 113yds (13)

1 39-3 **AYYADIEH (37)** D McCain 5 11-8 — T Gillard 91
2 5 **FRANCKY BLUE (76)** E Williams 5 11-8 — C Ring –
3 5 **GARAVOGUE (31)** Nick Scholfield 8 11-8 — H Reed 93
4 557-7 **JOSH CENTRAL (52)** S-J Davies 5 11-8 — J Best 77
5 2-6L **KASTELLION (51)** Mrs M Rowley 6 11-8 — C Deutsch 100
6 05 **LE FABULEUX BUCK'S (49)** M Keighley 5 11-8 — F Keighley(7) 92
7 4 **MISTER URSUS (69)** O Murphy 5 11-8 — S Bowen 102
8 5-567L5 **SAINT POLO (56)** J Candlish 6 11-8 — I J Power 83
9 3/2 ● **SEAVIEW ROCK (47) (S)** O Murphy 6 11-8 — B Sutton(5) ★120
10 936-52 **SUTHERLAND (49)** T Ellis 6 11-8 — J Andrews(3) 111
11 2 **THREE DONS (23)** A Carroll 7 11-8 — N Slatter(3) 114
12 R-L **ANNIE MCGRATH (23)** L Morgan 6 11-1 — D McMenamin 95
13 2537-47 **CELTIC QUEEN (31)** T Vaughan 6 11-1 — C O'Farrell 97

TONGUE STRAP: No. 13 HOOD: Nos. 3, 4, 7, 9.
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Sutherland, 11-4 Seaview Rock, 3 Three Dons, 8 Mister Ursus, 14 Ayyadieh, 16 Garavogue, Le Fabuleux Buck's, 20 Celtic Queen, 33 Others.
2025: Pleasington 7-11-6, Sean Bowen 10-3 (O Murphy), 8 ran.

3.02 LEICESTER RACECOURSE HCAP HURDLE
£4,225 (4) 1m 7f 113yds (11)

1 6102-52 **RAZZLE DAZZLE BOY (24) (D)** T Vaughan 6 12-1 — Mr E Vaughan(7) 112
2 501/P-P **ILOT DE L'ISLE (72)** R Bandey 8 11-9 — H Bannister –
3 LL6-P24 **CARRIGMOORNA ROWAN (48)** R Potter 9 11-9 — T Broughton(5) 113
4 17-2125 **AT THE OCHE (57) (D)** N & W Twiston-Davies 5 11-8 — S Twiston-Davies 112
5 093-121 ● **TIGERS MOON (37) (D)** T Ellis 6 11-7 — J Andrews(3) 108
6 15F- **MORNING AIR (F226) (C&D)** V Williams 5 11-7 — C Deutsch 88
7 43211/3 **BEST WOMEN (54)** A Hales 7 11-7 — K Woods 99
8 224-35P **SNAPIUS (30) (D,F)** James Owen 7 11-5 — A Chadwick(3) 111
9 23 **ZARAKERJACK (24)** G & J Moore 4 10-12 — F Mitchell(3) ★116
10 433LL3/ **COMEDAYGODAY (1119)** Lizzie Quinlan 9 10-12 — Sean Quinlan –
11 U46-LPP **BOSSOFTHEBUS (62)** E Williams 7 10-6 — C Ring 115

VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 7, 11 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2 HOOD: No. 7.
SP FORECAST: 3 Tigers Moon, 7-2 Razzle Dazzle Boy, 5 At The Oche, 6 Morning Air, 7 Zarakerjack, 12 Snapius, 14 Carrigmoorna Rowan, Best Women, 25 Others.
2025: The Grey Man 6-11-5, Benjamin Poste 12-1 (H Dickin), 10 ran.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

West: STARZAND	**Midlands: SEAVIEW ROCK**
(1.32 Leicester)	(2.32 Leicester)
North: AISLING OSCAR	**Newmarket: TIMELY AFFAIR**
(2.13 Newcastle)	(6.30 Southwell)

3.32 RACINGTV EXTRA HANDICAP CHASE
£3,697 (5) 2m 6f 151yds (10)

1 341L48- **HALL LANE (404)** F O'Brien 8 12-0 — J J Burke –
2 222-FP6 **DEVON DUDE (34)** E Williams 6 11-13 — C Ring 69
3 21/LP-52 **JEU D'OPALE (30)** V Williams 8 11-12 — C Deutsch 107
4 27-324F **ANOTHER DAY OUT (25)** M Keighley 8 11-12 — J Best 109
5 223-522 **LE GALLI BIER (43)** G & J Moore 5 11-7 — F Mitchell(3) 103
6 55P1-37 **MIXEDWAVE (29) (C&D)** Mrs P Sly 9 11-6 — Paul O'Brien 107
7 63533U **STREAMSFORTH LAD (32)** G Hanmer 8 11-4 — B Macey(7) –
8 422-723 ● **KAPAMAZOV (23)** L Morgan 9 10-12 — D McMenamin ★110
9 114P-4P **RIVER RUN FREE (33) (C)** D Pipe 7 10-10 — J Tudor 108
10 2P4-52L **NINE NINE NINE (20) (C&D)** S-J Davies 9 10-7 — S Fenelon(5) 108

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 7, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 9, 10.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 6, 10, 9.
SP FORECAST: 4 Le Galli Bier, 9-2 Streamsforth Lad, 6 River Run Free, Jeu D'opale, 7 Kapamazov, Another Day Out, 8 Mixedwave, 12 Hall Lane, 20 Others.
2025: Camulus 8-11-4, Charlie Deutsch 5-4 Fav (V Williams), 10 ran.

4.02 'HANDS & HEELS' MARES' HCAP HURDLE
£3,169 (5) 2m 4f 110yds (11)

1 33/73L-5 **KANTAGUA DU LARGE (35)** C Boultbee-Brooks 6 12-0 — Miss Clara Brewitt(3) 93
2 4PL-L15 **SOPHIE POWER (20) (C)** H Dickin 5 11-12 — Miss M Bevan(3) 95
3 R/1671-L **SUBTLE FORTUNE (32)** Mrs M Rowley 8 11-11 — Miss A Jackson-Fennell(3) 60
4 P13F-PP **WALKINTHECOTSWOLDS (23)** H Dickin 7 11-10 — O Palmer 102
5 LP768-L **CHOSEN HERO (37)** Lizzie Quinlan 8 11-7 — R Corcoran 98
6 L-6L6L ● **PEARL SMOKE (54)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 5 11-3 — N Andrews(3) 89
7 L3P-L24 **AFTER MANY DAYS (55)** H Daly 7 11-0 — W Featherstone 99
8 26-4714 **TAKE A HIKE (50) (D)** D J Jeffreys 8 10-13 — F Keighley 100
9 7611-53 **QUEEN OF STEEL (42) (D)** F O'Brien 6 10-13 — Mr Lucas Murphy(5) 100
10 155L- **NATUS VINCERE (416)** O Murphy 7 10-12 — Miss Jemima Stewart(5) –
11 2-85548 **SHESUPINCOURT (20)** R Potter 9 10-2 — Miss Roisin Leech(3) ★107

BLINKERS: 4 TONGUE STRAP: 2, 6, 8, 10, 11 CHEEK PIECES: 5, 7, 9, 11.
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Take A Hike, 7-2 After Many Days, 5 Natus Vincere, 7 Queen Of Steel, 10 Subtle Fortune, Pearl Smoke, 16 Sophie Power, 20 Others.
2025: Our Bill's Aunt 9-12-0, Toby McCain-Mitchell 25-1 (A Hales), 11 ran.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) A Keatley 80% (4 wins and 0 places from 5 runners), A Hales 67% (1/3/6), O Murphy 60% (6/9/25), Nick Scholfield 57% (2/2/7), A Balding 52% (8/3/21), K Ryan 50% (2/1/6), Miss L Perratt 50% (2/2/8), R Burdon 50% (1/1/4), R Spencer 50% (2/2/8).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS Ryan Kavanagh 62% (5 wins and 5 places from 16 runners), Jonathan Burke 59% (5/5/17), Paddy Bradley 57% (4/4/14), Sean Bowen 53% (9/9/34), Connor Planas 50% (2/0/4), Faye McManoman 50% (2/0/4), Jonny Peate 50% (2/3/10), Oisin McSweeney 50% (2/2/8), Tristan Durrell 50% (4/2/12).

WORLD OF SPORT

Knight nod to future but England still first

HEATHER KNIGHT insists playing for England remains her priority despite her new role as London Spirit's general manager.

"For now, I'm still very much committed to playing for England and some of that will start with the domestic side as well," said Knight, 35.

KNIGHT

"It's not a sign that I'm going to hang up the boots. Part of the negotiation around me taking this job was that playing for England comes first. I still have a lot of ambitions in terms of playing and this is me having a little turn towards the future."

Knight was speaking at Lord's on the day the Spirit announced eight signings for the 2026 season, including England trio Liam Livingstone, Jamie Overton and Charlie Dean.

All are internationals and also include South Africa batter Dewald Brevis and Australia spinner Adam Zampa.

CRICKET

THE BIG PICTURE

WINTER BLUNDERLAND: Alice Robinson crashes out during the World Cup Super G in Italy

Reed eyes a Brooks deal for Tour return

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

PATRICK REED is ready to leave LIV Golf for the PGA Tour – if the former Masters champion is offered the same deal as Brooks Koepka.

Five-time Major winner Koepka was fast-tracked back to the US circuit under the new Returning Members Program.

That allows LIV Golf stars who have won a Major since 2022 to return without a ban, although there are financial penalties. World No.41 Reed won the Masters in 2018 and so is not eligible, but said: "I definitely would have to think about it, if that number was down to 2018.

"I always enjoyed my time out there on the PGA Tour. Let's be honest, it's the best tour in the world. Look at what they've done in golf. I could see myself playing there at some point again."

GOLF

1. Which South Africa-born England Test cricketer, who died in 2025, was nicknamed 'the Judge'?
2. Who scored two tries for Gloucester in the 2025-2026 Investec Champions Cup Pool 2 home win over Castres?
3. Which Japanese golfer beat Alex Noren in a play-off to win the 2025 Hero World Challenge?
4. Which former World Heavyweight boxing champion was born Arnold Raymond Cream?
5. Which British tennis player won the women's singles at the Australian Open in 1972?
6. Which horse belonging to Queen Elizabeth II did Willie Carson ride to victory in the Oaks and the St Leger in her 1977 Jubilee year?
7. Which American athlete won gold medals in the men's 100m and 200m, long jump and 4x100m relay at the 1936 Olympics?
8. Who won the World Darts Championship three years in a row in the 1980s?
9. How many players are there in a women's lacrosse team in international matches?
10. With whom did Irina Rodnina win the first of her three Olympic pairs figure skating gold medals in 1972?

10 to tackle
RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Robin Smith 2 Charlie Atkinson 3 Hideki Matsuyama 4 Jersey Joe Walcott 5 Virginia Wade 6 Dunfermline 7 Jesse Owens 8 Eric Bristow 9 10 10 Alexei Ulanov

THE SCOUT

5.00 Outrun The Storm	7.00 Dollar's Dream
5.30 HUNKY DORY (nb)	7.30 Forglen
6.00 Si Grass	8.00 Jodhpur Blue
6.30 Timely Affair	8.30 Juno Star

5.00 AMATEUR JOCKEYS' HANDICAP
£4,470 (Class 6) 7f 14yds (12 declared)

1 (10) 44646-0 **THE ENGLISH ROGUE (10)** E Bethell 4 11-2 — Mr Simon Walker 53
2 (8) 248407- **ASIAN JOURNEY (33)** S England 5 11-0 — Rebecca Hitchen(5) 55
3 (7) 50939 6- ● **OUTRUN THE STORM (38) (D)** R Fahey 8 10-13 — Mr E Cagney 54
4 (3) 870768- **ZU RUN (38) (D)** M Loughnane 6 10-12 — Miss Hope Regan(7) 54
5 (9) L9136-3 **NO KNEE NEVER (14)** James Owen 5 10-12 — Mr Henry Callan(3) 53
6 (1) 377174- **ONEMORENOMORE (23) (C&D)** P McBride 6 10-12 — Mr F Yarham 53
7 (12) 622L8-3 **RAINWATER (9)** R Fahey 5 10-11 — Miss Isla Clarkson(7) ★56
8 (2) 42533-2 **OVERLOOKED (17)** H Bethell 5 10-7 — Miss Hannah Dring(5) 53
9 (6) LL89L-7 **PRINCE OF BEL LIR (19)** K R Burke 8 10-4 — Miss Sophie Dobson(7) 47
10 (4) 2372-54 **HEADSHOT (7) (C)** A Carroll 8 10-0 — Mr William Pearman(7) 52
11 (5) 2555/0-7 **DEQUINTO (12)** A Carroll 7 9-11 — Miss S Bowen 46
12 (11) L970-68 **SHOPTILYOUDROP (3)** P Kirby 4 9-11 — Miss Venetia Thompson(7) 45

BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 6, 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 12.
SP FORECAST: 3 Overlooked, 5 No Knee Never, 6 Onemorenomore, Rainwater, 7 The English Rogue, 10 Headshot, 14 Asian Journey, Outrun The Storm, 16 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

5.30 MIDNITE BETTING APP HANDICAP
£4,972 (4) 6f 16yds (10)

1 (2) 0L1169- **ARARAT (33) (C&D)** R Cowell 6 9-9 — N Callan 85
2 (3) L/56L1-4 **GUNLOCK (19)** Martin Dunne 6 9-9 — D Keenan 85
3 (5) 10421-L **HIERARCHY (13) (C&D)** J Osborne 7 9-8 — C Shepherd 85
4 (7) 243221- ● **HUNKY DORY (23) (C&D)** M Appleby 4 9-8 — A Rawlinson 86
5 (4) 085026- **SERGEANT PEP (31) (D)** C Cox 6 9-8 — Rossa Ryan 87
6 (6) 488035- **BOSH (61) (D)** M Dods 7 9-8 — Jason Watson 86
7 (8) 35446-8 **AMAZONIAN DREAM (19) (C&D) (T)** B Millman 7 9-7 — L Edmunds 84
8 (9) 704617- **BEATTIE IS BACK (206)** R Fahey 7 9-7 — H Russell 86
9 (1) 123525- **PAPA COCKTAIL (21) (C&D)** M Herrington 7 9-6 — C Rodriguez ★88
10 (10) 064212- **HUNDRED CAPS (103)** J Camacho 4 9-4 — D E Hogan 85

BLINKERS: 3 VISOR: 6 TONGUE STRAP: 2, 3 CHEEK PIECES: 4, 10.
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Hunky Dory, 13-2 Hundred Caps, 7 Beattie Is Back, 15-2 Papa Cocktail, 8 Sergeant Pep, 10 Gunlock, 12 Bosh, 14 Ararat, Hierarchy, 16 Others.
2025: Many A Star 8-9-12, William Carver 6-1 (J Osborne), drawn (9), 12 ran.

6.00 BETMGM RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES
£4,320 (5) 1m 13yds (12)

1 (8) **SWEETSTEVIE** P Owens 4 10-0 — J Dace(5) –
2 (4) 6- **KURIOS LADY (89)** J Tate 4 9-11 — H Crouch 59
3 (12) 9- **BAGGIE BOY (29)** Jack Jones 3 8-10 — D E Hogan 40
4 (1) 83- **SILVER STATE (34)** J Channon 3 8-10 — Rose Dawes(5) 58
5 (11) 02- **ITICA (55)** A Balding 3 8-8 — N Currie 69
6 (3) 6- **RAJENDRA (127)** D M Simcock 3 8-8 — C Shepherd 56
7 (2) 46- **BIG MOONRISE (24)** P Evans 3 8-6 — Doubtful –
8 (9) 3-7 **RAWSON (12)** M Appleby 3 8-6 — H Davies 58
9 (6) 6 **SI WHITE (17)** Sir M Prescott 3 8-6 — K O'Neill 39
10 (7) 5- **POOR RELATION (36)** Ollie Sangster 3 8-5 — H Doyle 62
11 (10) 2- ● **SI GRASS (171) (F)** C Johnston 3 8-5 — S D Bowen ★73
12 (5) 4 **STAR SUEPREME (14)** Lemos Souza 3 8-2 — T Heard 48

HOOD: No. 6.
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Si Grass, 2 Itica, 7 Poor Relation, 10 Rawson, Silver State, 14 Rajendra, 20 Kurios Lady, 25 Si White, 33 Others.
2025: Tuscan Star 3-8-8, Marco Ghiani 5-2 (A Balding), drawn (3), 7 ran.

6.30 BET 10 GET 40 WITH BETMGM HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 1m 13yds (12)

1 (6) 64055-2 **THE SPOTLIGHT KID (14) (D)** D Ivory 7 9-9 — H Doyle 64
2 (8) 4L4765- **PEBBLE DASH (32) (T)** Mr W G Harrison 4 9-9 — A Rawlinson 64
3 (1) 15L597- **RATAFIA (31) (D)** M Herrington 8 9-9 — B Loughnane 59
4 (4) 8880-1 **PRIDE EYE (14) (C&D)** M Rimell 4 9-8 — Rossa Ryan 64
5 (9) 69770-2 **ROARING RALPH (17) (C,D)** M Dods 6 9-8 — L Edmunds 65
6 (7) 89533-2 **HOW'S THE GUVNOR (8)** J Candlish 5 9-7 — D Keenan 67
7 (11) /8629-L **WAR MEMORIAL (17)** L Mullaney 5 9-7 — O Stammers 66
8 (5) 805567- **WHATACRACKER (23)** M Walford 6 9-7 — J Garritty 66
9 (10) 6L02-1 ● **TIMELY AFFAIR (16) (C&D,S)** W Knight 4 9-5 — N Callan ★68
10 (3) 984144- **CABLE BEACH (22) (C,F)** T Tate 5 9-2 — H Crouch 64
11 (2) L07L- **EMPEROR'S LOGIC (178)** D Ivory 4 9-0 — K O'Neill 53
12 (12) 6584-93 **EVOLUIR (7) (C)** M Hammond 5 9-0 — A Brookes(3) 62

BLINKERS: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 8 HOOD: No. 6.
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Timely Affair, 9-2 How's The Guvnor, 6 The Spotlight Kid, Roaring Ralph, 7 Pride Eye, 8 Pebble Dash, Cable Beach, 14 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

7.00 MIDNITE HANDICAP (DIV 1)
£3,140 (6) 1m 6f 21yds (9)

1 (6) 4775-2 ● **DOLLAR'S DREAM (7) (F)** P Kirby 5 9-9 — Rossa Ryan ★68
2 (7) 53548-5 **HALIPHON (12) (D)** I Williams 9 9-7 — B Loughnane 67
3 (2) 547688/ **SHIBUYA SONG (J110)** James Owen 7 9-6 — P Cosgrave –
4 (3) 1L585-U **SMOKEY MALONE (12) (C&D)** J & S Birkett 8 9-4 — D E Hogan 60
5 (4) L31/667- **INNISFREE PEARL (J25)** A King 5 9-3 — H Doyle 60
6 (5) 590L-0 **DESTINATION UNKOWN (14)** M Chapman 5 9-0 — S D Bowen 41
7 (9) L82647- **YURINOV (45)** P Kirby 6 9-0 — A Brookes(3) 60
8 (8) 84L895/ **SOCKS OFF (J245)** K Frost 9 9-0 — A Voikhansky –
9 (1) L600- **MANNY OH (134)** C Poulton 4 8-11 — K O'Neill 48

BLINKERS: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 8.
SP FORECAST: 13-8 Dollar's Dream, 4 Socks Off, 9-2 Haliphon, 7 Smokey Malone, 8 Innisfree Pearl, 10 Yurinov, 12 Shibuya Song, 66 Manny Oh, 100 Others.
2025: No corresponding race.

SOUTHWELL SSR

7.30 MIDNITE HANDICAP (DIV 2)
£3,140 (6) 1m 6f 21yds (8)

1 (6) LL/47L-8 **ACHNAMARA (17) (D)** P Kirby 7 9-9 — B Loughnane 64
2 (2) 3384-61 ● **FORGLEN (3) (D)** W Stone 5 9-6(5ex) — A Rawlinson 59
3 (8) 94L77-3 **HEDONISTA (12)** B J Llewellyn 6 9-5 — C Hutchinson 63
4 (3) 32377-3 **STINTINO SUNSET (14)** J & S Birkett 6 9-3 — D E Hogan ★66
5 (5) 8LL0- **FLAME DANCER (J9) (F)** Noel Williams 4 9-1 — Georgia Dobie 63
6 (1) 7L6597- **ABSTRACT (48)** A Carroll 8 9-0 — Jack Doughty 50
7 (7) 4L5317- **HIMSELF (24)** P Kirby 4 8-13 — A Brookes(3) 60
8 (4) 66665-9 **WEST WICKHAM (14)** Jessica Macey 4 8-13 — L Edmunds 60

TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 HOOD: No. 5.
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Forglen, 11-4 Himself, 11-2 Hedonista, 8 West Wickham, Stintino Sunset, 14 Abstract, 16 Achnamara, 20 Flame Dancer.
2025: No corresponding race.

8.00 MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 1m 3f 23yds (7)

1 (5) LL384-4 ● **JODHPUR BLUE (18)** I Williams 5 9-9 — B Loughnane 78
2 (6) 6LL438- **IT'S A LOVE THING (39) (C,D)** S England 8 9-7 — J Peate 79
3 (1) 3724L-3 **BRODIE'S BOY (17)** A Carroll 5 9-6 — M Ghiani ★80
4 (4) L8738-5 **BEARWITH (17) (C&D)** H Bethell 8 9-6 — A Brookes(3) 76
5 (7) 063L5-6 **BOUBYAN (18)** M Appleby 4 9-5 — H Doyle 78
6 (2) 503627- **KARTHALA (89)** J Candlish 4 9-4 — D Keenan 77
7 (3) 50012- **DUST COVER (33) (C&D)** R Burdon 4 9-4 — P Bradley 77

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 6.
SP FORECAST: Evens Dust Cover, 7-2 Jodhpur Blue, 7 Brodie's Boy, 10 Bearwith, 12 Boubyan, 14 It's A Love Thing, Karthala.
2025: No corresponding race.

8.30 MAKE THE MOVE TO MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 4f 214yds (9)

1 (2) 26769L- **CATCH CUNNINGHAM (25) (D)** M Herrington 7 9-9 — C Planas(3) 63
2 (5) 55-8 **SPECIAL ACCLAIM (12)** J Channon 4 9-8 — F Marsh 64
3 (7) L4054-1 **AZUCENA (7) (D)** S Hanlon 6 9-6(5ex) — B Loughnane 66
4 (9) 333144- **STREET LIFE (21) (C&D)** P Morris 9 9-5 — E Tindall(7) 67
5 (4) L32261- **SHALAA ASKER (33) (C,D)** C Wallis 8 9-5 — H Doyle ★69
6 (3) 75757-2 **STASH THE CASH (16) (D,F)** Martin Dunne 5 9-3 — D Fentiman 67
7 (6) 048760- ● **FORTUNATE STAR (105) (C&D)** S Hanlon 6 9-2 — O Stammers 54
8 (8) 4564-37 **JUNO STAR (16) (C&D)** P McBride 4 8-11 — Jason Watson 68
9 (1) L0939-L **TILSWORTH TURF (16)** J R Jenkins 6 8-9 — J Peate 65

BLINKERS: Nos. 3, 8, 9 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 5, 7.
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Shalaa Asker, 10-3 Azucena, 5 Stash The Cash, 6 Juno Star, 8 Street Life, 10 Catch Cunningham, 12 Fortunate Star, 14 Special Acclaim, 50 Tilsworth Turf.
2025: Castan 5-9-6, Paul Mulrennan 3-1 (B Smart), drawn (8), 6 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Rossa Ryan 17% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** M Appleby 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 5.00 Asian Journey (tongue strap), Shoptilyoudrop (cheek pieces), The English Rogue (blinkers), Outrun The Storm (cheek pieces), 6.00 Rajendra (hood), 8.30 Juno Star (blinkers), Fortunate Star (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 5.00 Onemorenomore(hcp). 6.00 Itica. 7.00 Haliphon(hcp). 8.00 Dust Cover(hcp), It's A Love Thing(hcp). 8.30 Juno Star(hcp). **DRAW:** No advantage. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Amazonian Dream** (5.30) 216 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 7.00 **Innisfree Pearl** from T Ward to A King, **Shibuya Song** from R Phillips to James Owen, **Socks Off** from R Menzies to K Frost. 7.30 **Flame Dancer** from D Loughnane to Noel Williams. 8.00 **Karthala** from R Varian to J Candlish. 8.30 **Fortunate Star** from D Carroll to S Hanlon.

L - Leicester
N - Newcastle
S - Southwell

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I DO Boulter is excited by a tennis refresh and wedding

Boulter is ringing in new year

BY **YASMIN SYED**

KATIE BOULTER has wiped the slate clean on the toughest of times.

Now she is looking ahead to an "unbelievable" year.

She marries world No.6 Alex de Minaur in the summer, but more immediately is hoping to follow him into the second round of the Australian Open.

Boulter was the No.22 seed coming into Melbourne 12 months ago – this time, she is ranked outside the top 100 and only made the main draw after several withdrawals.

After suffering injuries and a loss of form in 2025, the British player is excited to start the year with a new coach – and with her marriage to Aussie De Minaur just around the corner.

The world No.113 said: "It felt good to enter a new year. I've said this already 100 times this year, I'm getting married this year.

"It's going to be an unbelievable year, one of the best in my life, no matter what happens on the tennis court.

"I feel like having a new coach, a new set-up, everything is fresh and exciting again."

Boulter is working with Michael Joyce, the ex-coach of Maria Sharapova and Johanna Konta. With the "calm" figure in her corner, she hopes to have a double celebration after husband-to-be, De Minaur, beat lucky loser Mackenzie McDonald 6-2 6-3 6-3.

But Boulter's fresh start is under threat, as she has drawn in-form Belinda Bencic, who returned after pregnancy a year ago and is already back in the world's top 10.

Boulter said: "What she's doing is so inspiring, having come back from having a child. The level that she's playing at is one of the best in the world.

"I'm just going to go out and swing. I don't think there's anyone that thinks I'm going to win."

It all ends in tears for Fran

Wounded Jones: It kills me that my Slam dream is all Ova at first hurdle

FROM **YASMIN SYED** in Melbourne

FRANCESCA JONES was left "kicking and screaming" after an injury wrecked her Australian Open campaign in the first round.

The 25-year-old was in tears as she retired mid-match while facing qualifier Linda Klimovicova.

Jones received attention from the physio several times and sobbed during her final round of treatment on the court, calling it quits with Klimovicova leading 6-2 3-2.

The Brit, who also retired from the Auckland quarter-finals and withdrew from the Hobart International, said: "It kills me that it's here, because this Slam, I absolutely adore.

"It was my first main-draw Slam I ever played. It's now my first direct entry.

"I love being here. I love Australia. I love Melbourne. I've got a lot of friends here. My parents came out this time. It hurts a lot.

"But if I was someone that didn't know how to pick myself up quickly, I would be F'd. I don't know what better way to say that. I'd have no capacity to be where I am right now. So I let it all out, kicked and screamed for an hour, and now I've just been sat, speaking to them about where do we go from here."

Jones sits at No.71 in the world, two spots off her career-high, and knows her standing is enough to reach some of the bigger tournaments on the tour.

And the Brit was forced to think rationally when she picked up an injury mid-match, trying to prevent a longer lay-off.

She added: "Unfortunately, 2-1 to 2-2, I went for a slice, and the leg that I had injured, I slipped on it and fell.

"It was the groin last week, and then from that point, I felt something pull in my glute. I wasn't really sure what to do. I tried to see if it would kind of settle, but obviously aware of, then, multiple injuries in one leg. It's very difficult to think about the match at that point.

"I'm at a career high. I'm probably in the main draws of the Masters, and then you are thinking, should I continue, do I fight because it's a Slam?

"There's money, there's points on the line. Equally with my history, it's probably not the smartest thing to keep pushing.

"Then I'm just having that internal debate. I've honestly got no clue what happened after that point in the match."

The internal debate was difficult for Jones, who was faced with the added motivation of a mouthwatering showdown with No.12 seed Elina Svitolina in the second round.

Jones added: "It's really tough, because I'm terrible at reining it in.

"I'm someone that I push myself too far, but obviously, without saying too much, April last year, I pushed myself too far. That was not the right thing in the moment either.

"I struggle with that, because it's against my identity to come off court."

AGONISING Jones gets treatment from the physio on court

'I have no capacity to be where I am now. I let it all out... I kicked and screamed for an hour'

CENTURY

NOVAK DJOKOVIC looked sharp as he rattled up his 100th win at the Australian Open over unseeded Pedro Martinez.

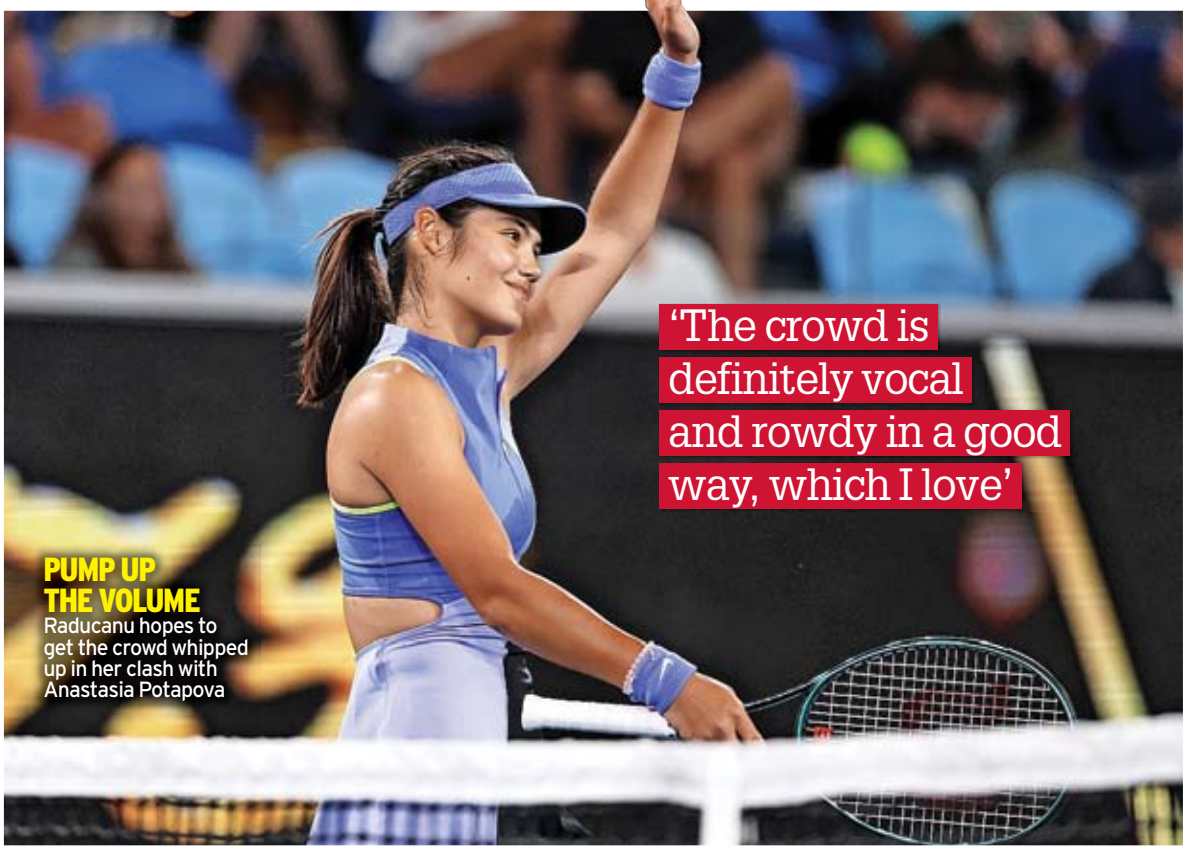
Playing his first match in 72 days, there were no signs of rust for the 24-time Major champion as he beat the Spaniard 6-3 6-2 6-2.

Djokovic, 38, said: "It's great to be back once again on definitely my favourite court, and a court that has given me so much. I've tried to give it back as much as I could in the last 20-plus years.

"What can I say? I like the sound of it. A nice feeling to be a Centurion in these numbers."

Former world No.3 Stan Wawrinka, who is playing his final Australian Open as he prepares to retire at the end of the season, rolled back the years to beat

TAKING COVER
British star Jones was forced to quit her first round match



PUMP UP THE VOLUME
Raducanu hopes to get the crowd whipped up in her clash with Anastasia Potapova

‘The crowd is definitely vocal and rowdy in a good way, which I love’

EMMA LOVING AUSSIE PARTY

British No.1 relishes ‘rowdy’ Melbourne atmosphere

FROM **YASMIN SYED** in Melbourne

EMMA RADUCANU is hoping the “rowdy” Australian atmosphere will carry her through tomorrow’s second round clash with Anastasia Potapova.

The British No.1 loves the festival feel in Melbourne Park – and hopes Wimbledon can eventually follow suit.

The Aussie Open has turned into a three-week event, with star-studded exhibition matches and concerts staged throughout the tournament.

And Raducanu, who saw off Mananchaya Sawangkaew in the opening round, said: “So much happens here. There’s a lot of concerts.

“Even in between games you see all the boards flashing ads of what’s going on. I saw Peggy Gou [a South Korean DJ and singer] is coming here, which is cool, but she won’t be here for a while.

“It’s cool that they can use the space, it’s such a big arena.

“You feel it the most on John Cain Arena, where there’s such a big space on the sides that it’s difficult to get used to because on a big court sometimes you can get lost with where you are, and the run-back is so big.

“But I really like Margaret Court Arena. It’s a really intimate court, but a nice one and the atmosphere there is always amplified. The crowd is definitely vocal and rowdy in a good way, which I love.

“It is difficult playing an Aussie. I played one in Hobart and it was a much smaller tournament, so here it must be difficult.”

Raducanu hopes to see her home Grand Slam follow suit if they get the go-ahead for their planned expansion.

The world No.29 might be a Major champion but she’s still working her way up in the hierarchy when it comes to the tricky world of practice courts, and appreciates some extra space.

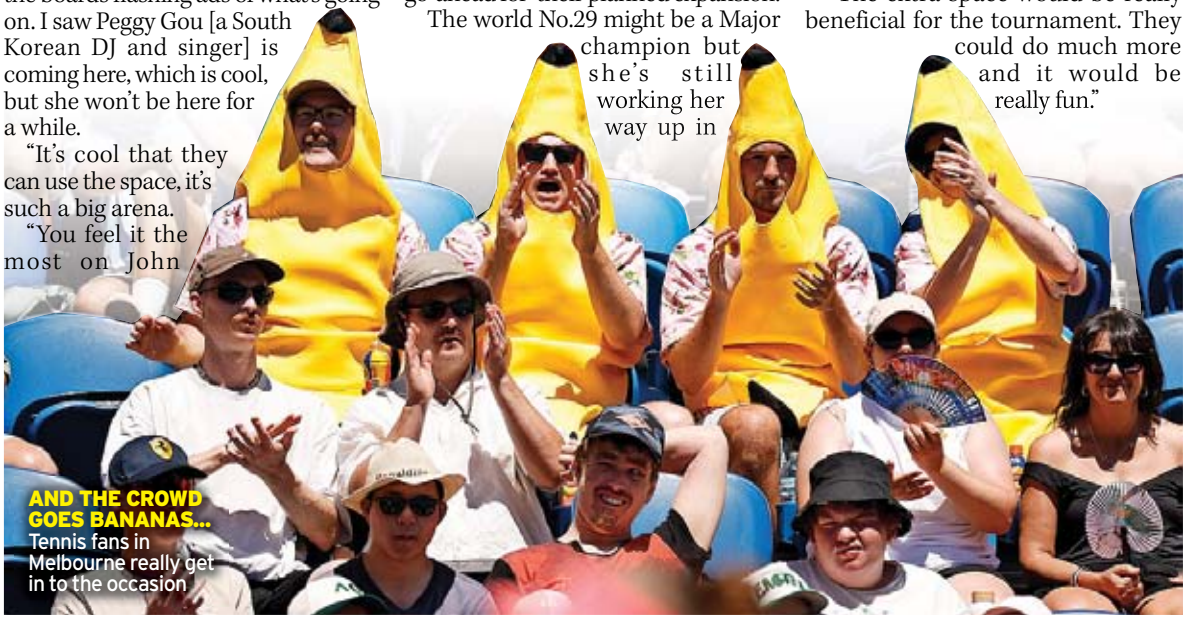
Raducanu explained: “The practice courts and the practice situation makes a big difference.

“Here, there are a lot of courts at the national tennis centre, but you are always hoping you get to practice on one of the courts on this side, so you have to walk a bit less.

“Back home at Wimbledon right now, because I was seeded, it helped and I got good slots.

“It is quite dependent on your ranking. It’s not as favourable as people might think it is, but you have to fight for your good court times.

“The extra space would be really beneficial for the tournament. They could do much more and it would be really fun.”



AND THE CROWD GOES BANANAS...
Tennis fans in Melbourne really get in to the occasion

FOR DJOK

Laslo Djere 5-7 6-3 6-4 7-6. Now aged 40, the 2014 champion told the crowd: “It’s been a long journey, so many memories here. It’s been incredible, the only reason I come back is the love you give me, it was amazing today.”

There was disappointment for British No.3 Jacob Fearnley, who suffered a 7-6 7-5 3-6 7-6 defeat to Kamil Majchrzak.

Fearnley looked to be mounting a comeback, but slipped in the fourth set and had to consult the physio.

He later revealed: “I was in quite a lot of pain.

“Sometimes when things are going pretty smoothly and look like they’re going very well, and something like that happens, then it kind of throws you off a little bit.”

THE MASTER Kyren Wilson

Wilson: I’m not Ky and mighty yet

SNOOKER THE MASTERS

BY **SHANE MacDERMOTT**

KYREN WILSON knows he needs to rack up the majors to cement himself as a snooker legend after winning his first Masters title.

The world No.2 added the game’s most prestigious invitational event to his growing list of achievements as he beat John Higgins 10-6 on Sunday night.

That means the Warrior now needs to win the UK Championship to complete the sport’s Triple Crown – something only 11 players have done.

Wilson said: “My CV is looking a bit brighter now. I just need the UKs to get that Triple Crown on my waistcoat which I desperately want.

“You can be dubbed as a great player. You can be dubbed as a legend. The legends are the ones that have multiple of these major titles, not just one.

“That’s no disrespect to anyone that’s won it once. In my opinion for people to keep going to the well, keep winning these tournaments time and time again, they’re definitely legends of our sport. Hopefully one day I’ll be in that bracket myself.”

It has been an incredible six-week turnaround for the 2024 world champion who felt his career was at a crossroads after an emotional exit from the UK Championship.

He said: “Sometimes the emotion does get the better of me and I didn’t know where my career was going at that point.

“So to turn it around in that short space of time and to come to a tournament where there is so much pressure on you because all the eyes are on you for this tournament.

“I probably spent about three days in bed when I got back from the UK Championship, which just isn’t fair.

“I’ve got a young family, two children looking forward to Christmas, they sacrifice having me being away all the time. They don’t want to have a miserable father.”

SWITCH Freeman has been backed by Dingwall

Freeman has a fan at centre

RUGBY UNION

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

FRASER DINGWALL reckons club mate Tommy Freeman could be the centre of attention in the upcoming Six Nations.

Freeman has won 20 of his 22 England caps on the wing, with two at 13, where boss Steve Borthwick is considering switching him.

The 24-year-old paired up in the centres with Dingwall in Northampton's 43-28 Champions Cup win over Scarlets and the duo are a live option for Borthwick in the upcoming Six Nations tournament.

And Dingwall, a career midfielder, reckons Freeman has shown he could cope with the switch as England bid for a first title since 2020.

Dingwall said: "He's a very talented rugby player, so to have him outside you can be quite simple at times. It's how can you give him the ball in space so he can do some cool things.

"He's got just such an intelligent rugby brain.

"There are bits around centre play where we can help each other out. If he needs to lean on me at times a bit, he can but he's doing a really good job of picking it up. Playing alongside him is fun."

Saints grabbed a home last-16 tie, against Castres, with their Scarlets win without hitting their straps like they did in reaching the final last season.

Dingwall added: "It was job done, but a bit clunky and frustrating in large part to us.

"But to score 43 points, take five points out of our game and seed second in our group – it's a good place to be frustrated from isn't it?"

OLIVER: WAITING FOR GREEN LIGHT ON NEW ERA IS UNBEARABLE

BY **DANIEL MOXON**

OLIVER BEARMAN admits the wait to see what the new balance of power in Formula One will look like has been "horrible".

The Brit enjoyed an impressive rookie season with Haas last year, but has no idea if he will be able to push on in 2026 because widespread engine and aero design rule changes are a clean slate for all teams – including newcomers Cadillac.

Bearman is optimistic about the first Haas car of F1's new era, the VF-26 unveiled yesterday, but faces a nervy wait to discover what the new season will hold.

He said: "It's impossible to gauge where we're going to be right now. I feel like we can really have an impact straight away, but also it's horrible not knowing.

"I'd like to skip forward six months to see where we are, but I'm going to be giving it everything to make sure that where we are is as high up as possible."

Bearman, a Ferrari academy product, is seen as the heir to Lewis Hamilton's seat, but for now he is focused on learning about F1.

He said: "I've increased my knowledge base infinitely. I've improved a lot and I'm happy with how the season went.

"I upped my game, I felt like in the second half of the season, I started to put down some good results that I was happy with, and that was critical for me. I'm excited to continue that this year."

IT HAAS POTENTIAL Haas' new car, the VF-26, was unveiled yesterday

Maye-day call saves Patriots

DRAKE HAILS DEFENCE AFTER BRUTAL BATTLE

BY **KEITH WEBSTER**

DRAKE MAYE battled through snow and a brutal Houston defence to put New England one game away from a first Super Bowl since the Tom Brady era.

The Patriots quarterback threw three touchdown passes to help see off the Texans 28-16, but was quick to praise the defence for winning the game.

They now head to Denver on Sunday to face the Broncos for a place in Super Bowl LX. And Maye warned: "It's going to keep on getting tougher.

"We keep on playing great defences with great quarterbacks, and teams that deserve to be here. That's why we feel like we deserve to be here. We know we'll have to be at our best in critical moments.

"It's going to come down to making plays when you have them. I've just got to keep on giving our guys chances to make plays.

"I like our chances with those guys in the locker room. It's fun to be with those guys, and just glad the season keeps on going. Hopefully it goes for a good while longer."

Maye's opposite number, CJ Stroud, suffered a dreadful night in the winter weather, throwing four interceptions, one of which was run back for a touchdown.

But Houston head coach DeMeco Ryans took the heat off his quarterback and pinned the blame on himself instead.

"When things don't go your way, you have bad performances, it's not a time to point fingers or say it's on one person," Ryans said.

"If anybody, it all starts with me. For me, as the head coach of this team, we didn't perform well. I didn't have our guys ready to go in this moment. So that starts with me. We stick together."

The other spot in the season finale will go to either Seattle or the Los Angeles Rams after LA beat the Bears in overtime, 20-17.

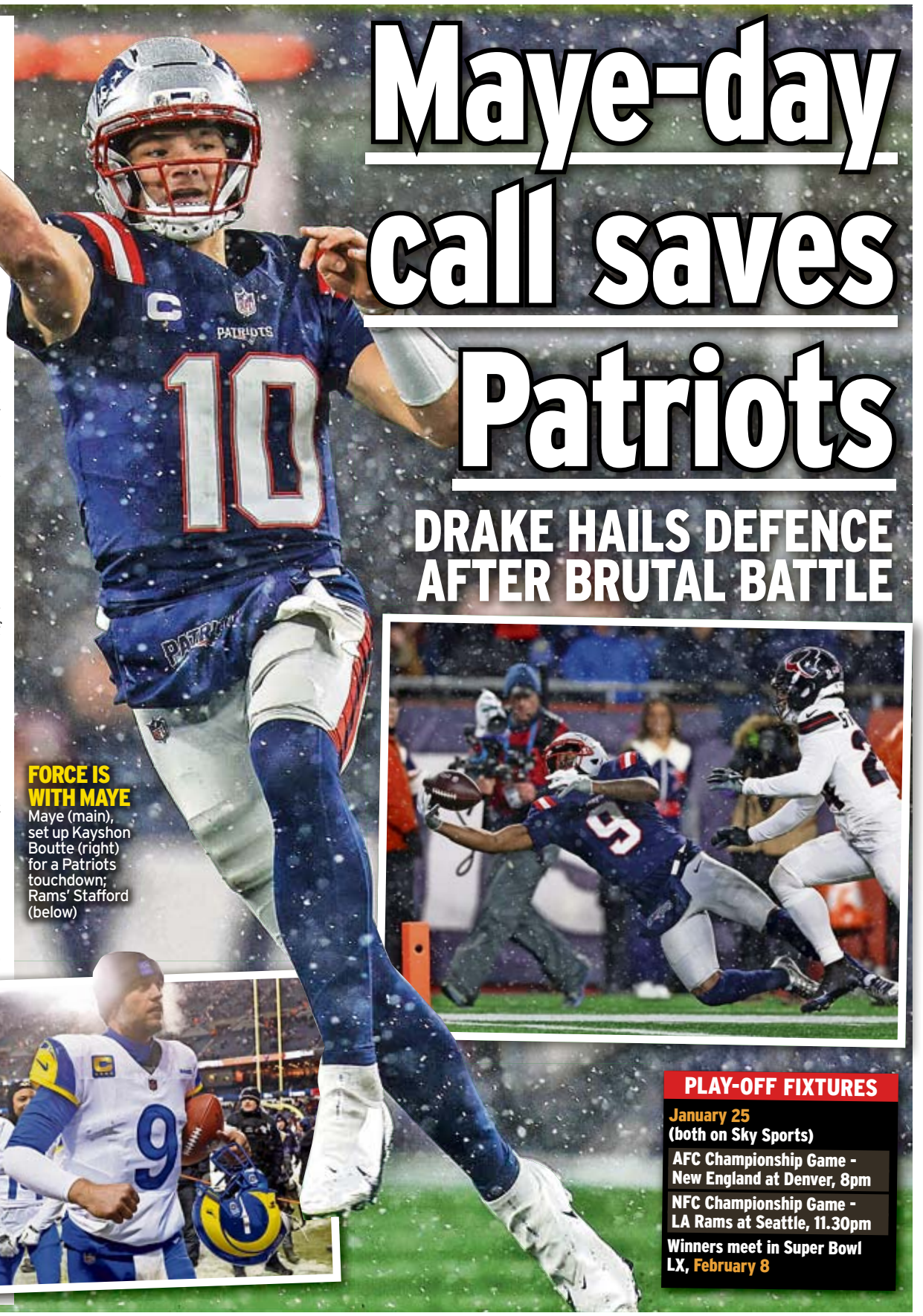
Chicago tied the game at 17-17 with 27 seconds left in regulation on Caleb Williams' touchdown pass to Cole Kmet.

But the Rams held their nerve to kick the game-winning field goal in sudden death.

Rams QB Matthew Stafford said: "Sometimes offence is going to have a great day and find a way to win it, and sometimes defence is going to have a day and keep us in it for as long as they did.

"It's a team effort. We've got a resilient group. Love being part of it.

"There are things we can do better, but we found a way to win the game and in January and February that's what matters."



FORCE IS WITH MAYE Maye (main), set up Kayshon Boutte (right) for a Patriots touchdown; Rams' Stafford (below)

PLAY-OFF FIXTURES

January 25 (both on Sky Sports)

- AFC Championship Game - New England at Denver, 8pm
- NFC Championship Game - LA Rams at Seattle, 11.30pm

Winners meet in Super Bowl LX, **February 8**

GREEK UNORTHODOX...
Brighton's Kostoulas scores a stunning injury-time equaliser

PREMIER LEAGUE

BRIGHTON		BOURNEMOUTH
66%	POSSESSION	34%
5	SHOTS ON TARGET	2
5	SHOTS OFF TARGET	5
562	TOTAL PASSES	281
11	CORNERS	6
1	OFFSIDE	2
7	FOULS	6
0	CARDS	3
2		0

REF: Paul Tierney **ATT:** 30,172

LINE-UPS

BRIGHTON (4-2-3-1): Verbruggen; Veltman, Van Hecke, Dunk, Kadioglu (Boscagli 89); Hinshelwood (Baleba 66), Gross; Gruda (Minteh 66), Gomez (Rutter 66), Mitoma; Welbeck (Kostoulas 77)

B'MOUTH (4-2-3-1): Petrovic; Jimenez (Milosavljevic 90+9), Hill, Senesi, Truffert; Scott, Cook; Tavernier (Smith 71), Kroupi (Christie 72), Adli (Diakite 79); Evanilson

MAN OF THE MATCH
MARCUS TAVERNIER

SO KOST EFFECTIVE

BRIGHTON 1
Kostoulas 90+1
BOURNEMOUTH 1
Tavernier 32 pen

Supersub Charalampos scores spectacular Seagulls equaliser

BY **IAN BAKER**

CHARALAMPOS KOSTOULAS scored a contender for goal of the season to rescue a dramatic point for Brighton – in a game marred by yet more VAR controversy.

The Greek substitute scored with an injury-time overhead kick to maintain the Seagulls' unbeaten start to 2026.

His spectacular strike cancelled out a hotly-disputed Marcus Tavernier penalty, given after technology had intervened again. Furious Brighton fans chanted "you're not fit to referee" at official Paul Tierney after he overturned his original decision to book Amine Adli for diving and award the spot-kick.

The game has been dogged by less than clear-cut video technology overturning calls recently, and this was another that will continue the debate.

Seagulls keeper Bart Verbruggen appeared to make only the slightest of contact on Adli's trailing leg, with the Moroccan seemingly on his way to ground prior to the touch.

The penalty looked like giving the Cherries a first away win since August – but Kostoulas had other ideas with his worldie. The Amex Stadium was far from full on a fairly mild January night.

But the hosts started on the front foot. Pascal Gross, recently returned to Brighton, was unfortunate that his effort deflected wide from edge of area.

Brajan Gruda then set up an opportunity for himself and his powerful left-footer was well saved by Djordje Petrovic. But Bournemouth, without Antoine Semenyo for the first time in a league game since he departed for Manchester City, still looked lively without a man boss Andoni Iraola had described as "irreplaceable."

The impressive Evanilson saw a long-range effort deflected wide after Alex Scott had won the ball in midfield. The Cherries No.9 went close again after some good control but could not beat Verbruggen.

FALL GUY Adli is brought down by Verbruggen to give Bournemouth a controversial penalty

Brighton needed Jan Paul van Hecke's bravery to cut out Tavernier's cross with Adli lurking.

The home crowd were getting frustrated and then came the flashpoint.

Bournemouth broke from a Brighton corner with Tavernier crossing for Adli.

Tierney originally booked the Bournemouth No.21 for simulation. But VAR Jarred Gillett ordered Tierney to look at his monitor before the yellow card was reversed. Seagulls fans could not believe it as they saw replays on the big screen – and their anger was obvious.

Tavernier slotted home the 32nd-minute penalty.

It could have got worse for the hosts before half-time with Evanilson missing a hat-trick of chances, including hitting the post and heading wide from Adrien Truffert's cross.

Kaoru Mitoma, on his 100th Premier League appearance, went close for Brighton at the start of the second half.

But Bournemouth continued to make life uncomfortable for Fabian Hurzeler's men and Hurzeler (circle) was himself booked as frustrations grew.

Petrovic made a fabulous reaction save to keep out sub Yankuba Minteh's powerful strike.

But Bournemouth could not hold on with Kostoulas' stunning leveller in the first minute of stoppage time showing Brighton's character, although a point did little for either side's league position.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Premier League

BRIGHTON (0)..... 1 BOURNEMTH (1) .. 1
Kostoulas 90 — Tavernier 32 (pen)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	22	15	5	2	40	14	50
Man City	22	13	4	5	45	21	43
Aston Villa	22	13	4	5	33	25	43
Liverpool	22	10	6	6	33	29	36
Man Utd	22	9	8	5	38	32	35
Chelsea	22	9	7	6	36	24	34
Brentford	22	10	3	9	35	30	33
Newcastle	22	9	6	7	32	27	33
Sunderland	22	8	9	5	23	23	33
Everton	22	9	5	8	24	25	32
Fulham	22	9	4	9	30	31	31
Brighton	22	7	9	6	32	29	30
Crystal Palace	22	7	7	8	23	25	28
Tottenham	22	7	6	9	31	29	27
Bournemouth	22	6	9	7	35	41	27
Leeds	22	6	7	9	30	37	25
Nottm Forest	22	6	4	12	21	34	22
West Ham	22	4	5	13	24	44	17
Burnley	22	3	5	14	23	42	14
Wolves	22	1	5	16	15	41	8

CRICKET

FIRST T20 INTERNATIONAL — Afghanistan v West Indies (Sharjah): Afghanistan 181-3 (I Zadran 87no; D Rasooli 84); West Indies 143-9 (Z u Sharifi 3-36). *Afghanistan win by 38 runs.*

DARTS.

SAUDI ARABIA MASTERS — 1st Round: M Leung (Hkg) bt D Noppert (Ned) 6-3, S Bunting (Eng) bt T Goto (Jpn) 6-1, N Aspinall (Eng) bt L Ilagan (Phi) 6-1, M van Gerwen (Ned) bt N Kumar (Ind) 6-1, L Littler (Eng) bt P Lim (Sgp) 6-1, G Price (Wal) bt A Toylo (Phl) 6-0, L Humphries (Eng) bt R Azemoto (Jpn) 6-2, G van Veen (Ned) bt M Sakai (Jpn) 6-2

GOLF

USPGA TOUR SONY OPEN (Honolulu, Hawaii) **Final Round** — (USA unless stated, Par 70): **264** C Gotterup 63 69 68 64, **266** R Gerard 69 64 68 65, **267** P Rodgers 66 67 69 65, **268** J Bridgeman 69 68 67 64, R MacIntyre (Sco) 67 71 67 63, **269** D Berger 66 70 69 64, H Hall (Eng) 65 69 66 69, L Hodges 70 67 67 65, T Pendrith (Can) 69 68 68 64, D Riley 67 64 67 71

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne, Australia) **— Selected Men's Singles 1st rnd: (19)** T Paul (USA) bt A Kovacevic (USA) 6-4 6-3 6-3, **(6)** A De Minaur (Aus) bt M McDonald (USA) 6-2 6-2 6-3, **(13)** A Rublev (Rus) bt M Arnaldi (Ita) 6-4 6-2 6-3, **(11)** D Medvedev (Rus) bt J De Jong (Ned) 7-5 6-2 7-6 (7-2), K Majchrzak (Pol) bt **J FEARNLEY** (Gbr) 7-6 (7-2) 7-5 3-6 7-6 (7-3), N Borges (Por) bt **(7)** F Auger-Aliassime (Can) 3-6 6-4 6-4 0-0 ret, **(4)** N Djokovic (Ser) bt P Martinez (Spa) 6-3 6-2 6-2, **(21)** D Shapovalov (Can) bt Y Bu (Chn) 6-3 7-6 (7-3) 6-1, **(12)** C Ruud (Nor) bt M Bellucci (Ita) 6-1 6-2 6-3.
Selected Women's Singles 1st rnd: (3) C Gauff (USA) bt K Rakhimova (Uzb) 6-2 6-3, L Klimovicova (Cze) bt **F JONES** (Gbr) 6-2 3-2 ret, **(8)** M Andreeva (Rus) bt D Vekic (Cro) 4-6 6-3 6-0, **(6)** J Pegula (USA) bt A Zakharova (Rus) 6-2 6-1, **(4)** A Anisimova (USA) bt S Waltert (Swi) 6-3 6-2, **(2)** I Swiatek (Pol) bt Y Yuan (Chn) 7-6 (7-5) 6-3.

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

UEFA Champions League - League Stage
Bodo/Glimt v Man City (5.45) (Live on TNT Sports 2)
Copenhagen v Napoli (8pm)
FC Kairat v Club Brugge (3.30) (Live on TNT Sports 1)
Inter Milan v Arsenal (8pm)
Olympiakos v Bayer Leverkusen (8pm)
Real Madrid v Monaco (8pm) (Live on TNT Sports 2)
Sporting Lisbon v Paris SG (8pm)
Tottenham v Borussia Dortmund (8pm)
Villarreal v Ajax (8pm)

Sky Bet Championship
Charlton v Derby
Coventry v Millwall
Ipswich v Bristol City
Oxford Utd v QPR
Preston North End v Hull
Sheffield Wednesday v Birmingham
Swansea v Blackburn
West Brom v Norwich
Wrexham v Leicester (8pm) (Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

Sky Bet League One
Stevenage v Bolton

FA Cup Third Round
Salford City v Swindon

Enterprise National League: Boreham Wood v Scunthorpe, Hartlepool v Gateshead, Southend v Eastleigh, Truro City v Brackley, Yeovil v Aldershot.

FA Trophy — 4th rnd: Woking v Macclesfield FC, Hornchurch v AFC Telford.

Scottish Cup Fourth Round
Stranraer v Queen's Park

William Hill Scottish Premiership
Livingston v St Mirren

William Hill Scottish League One: East Fife v Inverness CT, Alloa v Montrose.

City move hits mark for Guehi

FROM BACK PAGE

unbelievable squad of players. It feels good to be able to say that."

Guehi is ineligible for tonight's Champions League clash at Bodo/Glimt, and is expected to make his debut against Wolves this weekend.

The England star said he snubbed a host of other clubs to join City because of Pep Guardiola and the chance to win trophies.

He said: "I am really happy and incredibly proud to be a Manchester City player. This move feels like the culmination of all the hard work I have put into my career. I want to grow as a player and a person, and I know at this club that's going to happen.

"Football has given me so much, and to be able to continue my development at City is special for me and my family. I cannot wait to get started.

"I want to meet my team-mates, train hard, understand what the manager expects of me and then show the City fans what I can do."

City director of football Hugo Viana (top) said: "Marc has been one of the best defenders in English football for some time. He is a leader, a brilliant pro and desperate to improve."

DON'T GET ARCTIC ROLLED

Pep tells his City stars to adapt in freezing Norway

NORSE OF NATURE Haaland is relaxed to be back in his home country

BODO GLIMT v MAN CITY
Champions League: KO 5.45pm

BY **SIMON BAJKOWSKI**

PEP GUARDIOLA has urged his Manchester City players to bounce back in Norway after suffering a cold spell in their campaign.

City are without 10 players for their Champions League game tonight and have had to change their usual preparations to make exceptions for Bodo's artificial pitch.

Guardiola's squad trained on the pitch last night (below) – rather than having a session back in Manchester – as they try to get to grips with how the ball will bounce differently in the Aspmyra Stadium.

City will also have to pick themselves up after a poor performance in last Saturday's Manchester derby defeat at Old Trafford – which makes it four Premier League games without a win.

Guardiola's men now look set to have different challenges thrown their way in the Arctic Circle.

And the Catalan admitted tonight's unglamorous tie in freezing conditions on an artificial pitch will certainly not be a cakewalk.

He said: "We have to see how the ball bounces, the short passes and long passes. Life is never a red carpet. How quick you adapt to uncomfortable situations you are closer to success.

"If I start to cry for that situation, we don't achieve what we did in the past.

"We have to look at ourselves in the mirror and say what do we have to do, not denying that there are things you cannot control.

"They (Bodo) told me five or six years ago they were in the second division, now playing in the Champions League and last season's semi-final of the Europa League. Huge respect.

"We had a meeting before and I told them, guys they are a really good team. It will be cold, the pitch, we have to adapt as quick as possible and hopefully we can perform what we have to do."

There is a particular interest in Norway in Erling Haaland's fatigue, given the City striker is expected to be their talisman for this summer's World Cup.

Guardiola revealed that the No.9 had told him that "he slept unbelievably, so he's fit".

The City boss (left) is thrilled to capture the £30million signing of Marc Guehi from Crystal Palace and believes he can become a bedrock for the club for many years to come.

"He's a top central defender playing with the national team," said Guardiola. "He has the perfect age for many years and can play right and left.

"I know how he wanted to choose us and help with the problems that we have in the back in the next few months so it's really important that he's here."

BODO/GLIMT: Haikin, Sjovold, Bjortuft, Nielsen, Bjorkan, Evjen, Berg, Fet; Blomberg, Hogh, Hauge
MAN CITY: Donnarumma, Lewis, Khusanov, Alleyne, Ait-Nouri, O'Reilly, Reijnders, Mukasa, Cherki, Doku, Marmoush
REFEREE: Sven Jablonski (GER)

DOWN AT HEEL The Golden Boot award could not console Diaz (left) after his miss

DIAZ'S 'SOUL HURTS'

BY **DAVID CHARLESWORTH**

BRAHIM DIAZ admitted his "soul hurts" as he apologised to Morocco supporters for his panenka penalty miss in the Africa Cup of Nations final.

In a chaotic conclusion to Sunday's showpiece between Morocco and Senegal in Rabat, Diaz had the opportunity to seal victory for the tournament hosts in added time.

However, after a 16-minute delay caused by Senegal being led off the pitch by head coach Pape Thiaw (below), who was incensed by the awarding of the penalty, Diaz's tame effort looped into the hands of goalkeeper Edouard Mendy.

Pape Gueye's outstanding extra-time strike clinched a 1-0 victory for Senegal, leaving Diaz under attack for his miss.

The Real Madrid forward said: "My soul hurts. I dreamed of this title because of all the love you guys have given me, every message, every show of support that made me feel like I wasn't alone.

"I fought with everything I had, with my heart above all. I failed and I take full responsibility. I sincerely apologise. It will be hard for me to recover, because this wound does not heal easily.

"I will keep going until one day I can return all this love and be the pride for my Moroccan people."

Diaz was the tournament's top-scorer with five goals, but appeared disconsolate after being handed the Golden Boot by FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

Morocco head coach Walid Regragui defended Diaz, admitting the long disruption was a major factor in the miss. "He had a lot of time before taking the penalty, which must have disturbed him," Regragui said. "But we can't change what happened. That is how he chose to take the penalty."

Senegal are set to be sanctioned for walking off in protest at the penalty, with tournament organisers, the Confederation of African Football (CAF), taking a dim view of the incident.

"CAF condemns the unacceptable behaviour of some players and officials," said a statement. "CAF is reviewing all footage and will refer the matter for appropriate action to be taken against those found guilty."

AT FULL STRETCH
Odegaard, Merino, Rice and Gyokeres compete for the ball in training yesterday

JESUS: I BELIEVE IN VIKTOR

SMILES BETTER
Arteta and Jesus in Milan

A rival for the striker role, but Brazilian backs Gyokeres to find form

INTER MILAN v ARSENAL
Champions League: KO 8pm

BY **TOM CANTON**

GABRIEL JESUS has backed Viktor Gyokeres to come good but warned there are no guaranteed spots at big clubs like Arsenal.

The Brazilian has returned after a long-term knee injury suffered in January last year and already found the net in the win over Aston Villa.

With the recovery of Kai Havertz, the competition for the No.9 spot has only increased but Jesus only had positive words for his Swedish team-mate.

"Vik is an amazing guy," he said. "Unfortunately, when he came, I wasn't there because I was injured and I was doing my rehab in Brazil with my family.

"I had a newborn, but I wasn't there. But since I came back, we have good relations. We talk about football. We are the same age. And then, I have played here in the Premier League longer than him.

"Sometimes I give some opinions, and sometimes he also gives, about goals, about stuff. He's a top striker; he scored a lot of goals in his previous club.

"I'm sure that he's going to find a way to do the same for us because this is good for us. Because this is good for Arsenal, me, him, Kai, whoever, the wingers, everyone wants to score goals..

Gyokeres has struggled to hit the ground running since his move from Sporting in the summer and the returns of Jesus and Havertz only puts pressure on the Swede to start finding the back of the net.

The £64million signing has eight goals in 26 appearances this season but has only scored twice since the beginning of November.

Asked if Gyokeres' form had opened the door for him to force his way into the starting lineup, Jesus said: "Well, that's a tough question because Vik is an amazing player. He's a striker who can score goals every time, at every minute.

"Then also, Kai is an amazing player, an amazing striker. I just find myself so happy that I came back.

"I have been in the position that Vik is now, and it's not easy.

"But I'm sure that everyone here, not only the coach and staff, the players as well, are going to support him and give him the belief that he's here to help us.

"In a club like Arsenal, big like this, there is no guaranteeing a spot to anyone.

"So we're all here to help Arsenal to try to win games and at the end of the season win trophies."

Jesus' future has been something of a question mark, playing so little due to injury.

However, the 28-year-old made it very clear where his head is at on his future.

"Like I said before, my wish is to stay at Arsenal," he said.

"And then I have a contract as well.

"I want to extend my contract, I want to stay, I want to win trophies with Arsenal because I came here with the purpose.

"That's it. But sometimes the reality is different. My focus now is to stay healthy and then win trophies with Arsenal."

INTER MILAN: Sommer, Acerbi, Akanji, Bastoni, Henrique, Barella, Mkhitaryan, Zielinski, Dimarco, Thuram, Martinez
ARSENAL: Raya, White, Saliba, Gabriel, Lewis-Skelly, Zubimendi, Rice, Eze, Saka, Jesus, Trossard
REFEREE: Joao Pinheiro (POR)

GRINNING FORMULA Saka, Gabriel and Lewis-Skelly. Above: Jurien Timber

CONFIDENT Mikel Arteta in the San Siro last night

Art set on revenge mission

BY **TOM CANTON**

MIKEL ARTETA says Arsenal must show they can handle their emotions to end their trophy drought – starting with a win over Inter Milan tonight.

The Gunners fell flat on their last visit to the San Siro when the eventual beaten finalists overcame them in a 1-0 defeat.

But 14 months on, Arsenal are leading the Premier League and Champions League tables and Arteta has challenged his side to take the next step.

He said: "Performance and result have an impact emotionally and we know that the match tomorrow, [we need] to come here and win the game.

"That's a step we didn't do last year, and we have to show we are better than last year."

Arsenal were beaten in controversial scenes last season when a questionable Mikel Merino (inset) handball led to a penalty that Inter took to steal three points.

But they take on the Nerazzurri tonight looking to make it seven wins from seven Champions League games and confirm a top-two finish.

Such a result would guarantee them a home tie in the second leg of each knockout round they reach, a valuable advantage.

"Every game in the Champions League, when you have the opportunity to achieve something, you have to grab it, and we're really going to have to earn it against a top, top side."

Arsenal are expected to go far in every competition this season with a chance they could finish with a potential 60-game-plus campaign.

Arteta believes he has the squad to cope with such demands but insisted: "What is coming and what is relevant is the next match.

"Sometimes we've been thinking a lot about the future. You have to adapt to the circumstances."

STORM

Frank still standing after training ground power lunch with bosses

TOTTENHAM v B DORTMUND
Champions League: League stage, KO 8pm

BY **JOHN CROSS**

THE lunch date at the Tottenham training ground probably felt more like the last supper.

Thomas Frank has been left in the bizarre scenario where he is taking charge of tonight's showdown with Borussia Dortmund but is unsure whether he will still have a job by the end of the week.

Frank admits he is in "stormy weather" but took a glimmer of hope from his lunch meeting with members of the club hierarchy at the training ground.

Spurs boss Frank met chief executive Vinai Venkatesham, sporting director Johan Lange and Nick Beucher, son-in-law of co-owner Vivienne Lewis, on the eve of a game which could decide his future if that has not been done already.

Frank admitted that no assurances were given but still saw it as a positive because normally when a manager is about to be fired, directors are nowhere to be seen.

He said: "I haven't heard any situation like that in football where they say, 'Hey, mate, if you win tomorrow, no problem. If you lose tomorrow, no problem'.

"We had a good conversation about life and football, the future of the club, everything normal, like you do.

"Of course there's a little bit, how would we say, stormy weather out there.

"I just think it's an extremely good sign, because normally people are running away if there's bad news or bad weather coming, they're normally not coming in and being friendly for lunch."

Even by football standards, it was an odd day for Frank who relied heavily on weather analogies amid his growing crisis.

There is a feeling that if there was an obvious caretaker or interim manager, Frank might have got his marching orders on Sunday following Saturday's defeat to West Ham which saw the crowd turn on the manager and the board.

But Frank was left to face the music yesterday and, before training, he was asked by photographers how he was.

"I'm good, the sun is shining and we're playing football," he replied.

The reality was it was overcast in north London and that has been the story of Frank's seven-month tenure. One win in the last eight games has left him on the brink.

Frank is a nice guy but probably not a great fit for Spurs. His football is more about set-pieces than free-flowing entertainment but you could only admire his "resilience".

When asked if he can turn it around, Frank said: "I'm not in doubt of that. In this game, you always need to show resilience. I listened to some interesting things the other day, where the three biggest things in showing resilience is one, you have good values. I see myself as a guy that has pretty good values.

"Two, you know reality. And reality is one in five people normally don't like you, no matter what you do. One in five love you, no matter what you do. Both are probably biased too much either way.

"Then there's the three in five, that if you behave well, respectful, show integrity, do your best, normally that's the way. So no matter what you do, reality is someone will not like you.

"But I keep doing what I do, what I believe in. And then the last bit, have perspective in life, which I have in abundance."

Sadly, it is hard to believe one in five Spurs fans still love Frank. The biggest issue is the appears to have lost the crowd. But he pleaded with the supporters to back the team against Dortmund.

Frank added: "The fans are crucial. I don't see any club performing well without the fans supporting, helping and doing everything they can. It's fair that it's not been smooth and it's not been as fluid as we want to. A little bit too much up and down.

"Unfortunately it's a results business and there's a lot of emotions but there are a lot of signs it's going the right way.

"It's a little bit tricky to play every third or fourth day, that makes it more difficult.

"We still need to find a way to get over the line but we're much closer than we think and we just need to keep going."

BRIGHT OUTLOOK
Thomas Frank still believes good times are coming

ALIVE & KICKING
Tottenham's players are put through their paces

TOTTENHAM (4-3-3): Vicario; Porro, Romero, Danso, Spence; Gray, Bergvall, Simons; Odobert, Kolo Muani, Solanke
B DORTMUND (3-4-2-1): Kobel; Can, Anton, Schlotterbeck; Ryerson, Bellingham, Nmecha, Svensson; Adeyemi, Brandt; Silva
REF: Glenn Nyberg (SWE)

TROOPER

MASKED WINGER
Djed Spence (left), Pedro Porro and Dominic Solanke (far right) hit the right notes

Tel-tale sign showing Mathys is unwanted

BY **JOHN CROSS**

MATHYS TEL has been axed from Tottenham's Champions League squad for a **SECOND** time.

The £30m summer signing has been told that he will not be included for the showdown with Borussia Dortmund, with Dominic Solanke (right) selected instead.

It is a hammer blow for the France Under-21s ace who was left out of their Champions League squad at the start of the campaign but got a reprieve and played against Slavia Prague last month.

But that lasted for just one game – and it must throw a huge question mark over Tel's future at the club.

It also comes amid a massive injury crisis at Tottenham which leaves them missing **THIRTEEN** players for their clash with Dortmund, which is crucial in their bid to make the knockout stages.

Tottenham boss Thomas Frank said: "I made the decision. It was not a nice decision to have to make. Unfortunately that's football, you have to make a decision.

"With the way the rules are, the only option was it was either Dom or Mathys in the squad.

"I chose Dom because... Mathys has done very well in the last couple of games and that's the crazy thing, if I could pick from all the players that are fit, he would start [against Dortmund]."

Tottenham's missing list includes Micky van de Ven (suspended), Conor Gallagher (ineligible) and Ben Davies (ankle surgery).

And Joao Palhinha has now joined Pape Sarr, Yves Bissouma, Mohammed Kudus, Radu Dragusin, Dejan Kulusevski, James Maddison, Rodrigo Bentancur and Richarlison as the other absentees.

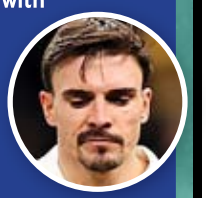
'I'M STILL UP FOR A BATTLE'

FROM BACK PAGE

wall, you fight. And that's what I do. I'm energetic, I fight. And again, it's not about me.

"We need to win football matches. And we need to win football matches together. That's what it's all about."

The Dane has been under increasing pressure and Saturday's home defeat by West Ham appears to have left him a dead man walking. Tottenham have a crippling injury list with 13 players missing for the showdown with Dortmund.



Joao Palhinha (right) is the latest to join the injury list while Micky van de Ven is suspended. But Frank insists he can turn the situation around.

He said: "Being up for the fight is to get up every morning very early, coming in, preparing and doing everything we can to turn every stone to make sure we are well prepared every single time we go on the pitch, push the staff, push the players, have demands, loads of small conversations, meetings, push everything.

"That is part of it and ready for the fight is also that you keep going. You don't feel sorry for yourself when things are tough. You put things into a bigger perspective.

"I just keep doing what I am doing. I am not in doubt that is the right thing, but we need to win more football matches."

XAVI SEEING RED OVER BOWEN CHALLENGE

BY **JOHN CROSS**

THOMAS FRANK claimed Jarrod Bowen could have seen red for his X-rated tackle on Xavi Simons.

The unhappy Tottenham boss felt the England forward was fortunate not to get sent off after his challenge during Saturday's defeat to West Ham.

Tottenham midfielder Simons (inset) was sent off last month after a VAR check for a challenge on Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk.

Simons is set to start against Borussia Dortmund tonight even though he could not train yesterday because of an ankle injury suffered in Bowen's challenge.

Frank said: "Xavi was out there today but didn't train because that was a bad tackle from Bowen. Not that Bowen is a bad guy and would do anything intentional.

"A bad tackle from behind which injured his ankle, he has a swollen ankle but because he's so strong mentally, he will play through pain tomorrow.

"So that's big credit of course to Xavi. I can't understand why that isn't a red card when a red card is when he accidentally put his foot on Van Dijk. Anyway, that is a bigger discussion."

Simons insisted that Tottenham can still salvage their season despite the huge doubts over Frank's future as manager.

The former RB Leipzig star said: "We want to turn this around. Especially playing in the Champions League, it's the biggest stage. Me playing against Dortmund, I've played them already in Germany.

"It's special but every game is a big game for me and the team.

"We want to pick that moment to bring the three points home.

"This is the highest level of football, and as we know as a group, we have to stick together. It's not only the coach, it's the whole club. That's the most important thing.

"In football, we're playing every two or three days. And we have to stick together and go on. Tomorrow we have another opportunity to win."

Butt tells Martinez: Grow up!

BY **CONNOR O'NEILL**

LISANDRO MARTINEZ has been told to grow the f*** up by Nicky Butt as his war of words with the Manchester United defender continued.

Following United's 2-0 Manchester derby win, the Argentine hit back at comments made by Butt and Paul Scholes after they mocked his size ahead of his battle with Erling Haaland.

Butt joked that the City forward "would pick Martinez up and run with him" before Scholes said that "he'd score, then throw him in the net".

After keeping Haaland quiet, Martinez (above) responded by saying that if Scholes "wants to say something to me, he can come to my house".

Butt responded: "It is tongue-in-cheek, and it is quite obvious that Haaland is not going to pick him up and run with him.

"To come out and say come to my house and all that, f****** grow up.

"If you are going to get so emotional about someone saying something and react like that, you shouldn't be at a big football club because he is going to get that for the rest of his career at Manchester United.

"You get your ups and downs. I got so much stick when I played, but then next week you get your plaudits. There is no personal issue with us and Martinez. None."

Butt had started his reply by praising Martinez and centre-back partner Harry Maguire for their "brilliant" display against Haaland.

But speaking on his The Good, The Bad & The Football podcast, Butt continued: "If you're going to get that precious, you had better be s***-hot every week."

Scholes revealed he had previously exchanged messages with Martinez on social media, in which the centre-back revealed he had lost all respect for him.

"He weren't happy with something I said," Scholes said.

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PIC: SMARTFRAME/ MANCHESTER CITY FC

CITY ARE SIMPLY THE BEST

Guehi proud to sign for Pep's glory hunters

MARC GUEHI reckons he has joined the best club in England after completing his £30million move to Manchester City.

The England international (left) flew into Manchester on a private jet on Sunday to undergo a medical and put the finishing touches to the deal.

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

Former Crystal Palace captain Guehi has signed a contract worth £200,000 per week that will keep him at the Etihad until 2031.

The 25-year-old said: "I am now at the best club in England and part of an

TURN TO PAGE 56, COLUMN 1

Frank admits 'my back's against the wall' but vows to scrap with everything he has to save his job as Tottenham boss

I'M UP FOR THIS FIGHT

THOMAS WON'T TANK
Frank insists he will not be distracted by speculation

TOTTENHAM V B DORTMUND 8PM
BY JOHN CROSS

THOMAS FRANK insists he will battle to save his job.

His tenure as Tottenham boss is hanging by a thread and tonight's Champions League showdown with Borussia Dortmund could be his last game in charge.

The Spurs hierarchy have discussed making a change after just one win in eight games with fans turning on the under-pressure Dane.

Frank said: "If your back is against the

TURN TO PAGE 59, COLUMN 6

CHARA BANG Kostoulas celebrates his stunning strike

TEENAGE KICK IS A BIG DRAW

BRIGHTON 1
B'MOUTH 1

YOUNG GREEK NETS VITAL POINT FOR SEAGULLS: P55

It's a crying shame, Fran

SOB STORY AS INJURED JONES BOWS OUT: P52-53

JESUS: VIKTOR CAN BE A GREAT GUNNER

INTER V ARSENAL: PAGE 57

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

			7	8			3	
7	2	5	9		3			1
8			2		6	9		
1	6			9		5		
			4					3
		8					9	6
	8	1			2			9
6				5	4	2	8	7
	5			3	9		1	

MEDIUM

2				3		8		9
4			5		2			7
	3			8			4	
		7	8		3	6		
	6							
		5	4		6	7		3
	9						1	
3			2		9			8
6			3	1		9		4

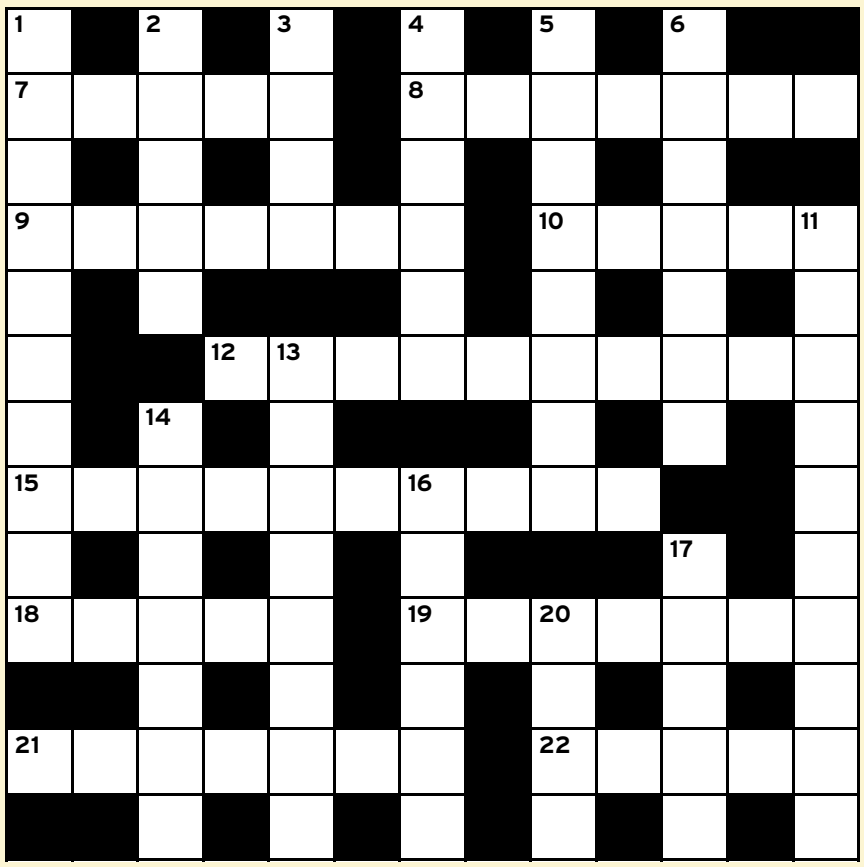
DIFFICULT

	9		7	3	1		2	
3				8				6
		8				3		
		2	8		4	7		
		7	1		6	4		
		6				2		
2				1				8
	7		2	4	9		1	

Extra clues: **0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution: **0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
7 Spear (5)
8 Colonist (7)
9 Cutting tooth (7)
10 Performed (5)
12 Monstrous (10)
15 Air (10)
18 Banish (5)
19 Renowned (7)
21 Foulness (7)
22 Rejoice (5)

DOWN
1 Unlettered (10)
2 Light meal (5)
3 Jumble (4)
4 Moneylender (6)
5 Alien (8)
6 Joy (7)
11 Deceit (10)
13 Indecorous (8)
14 Irreverent (7)
16 Yearning (6)
17 Concerning (5)
20 Pour (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **18 mins** Good: **14 mins** Excellent: **10 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

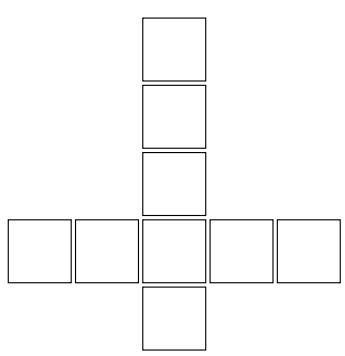
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

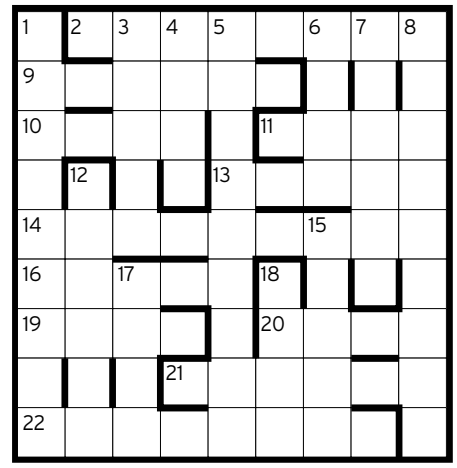
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution tomorrow

A A A D E N R S Y



SMALL CROSSWORD



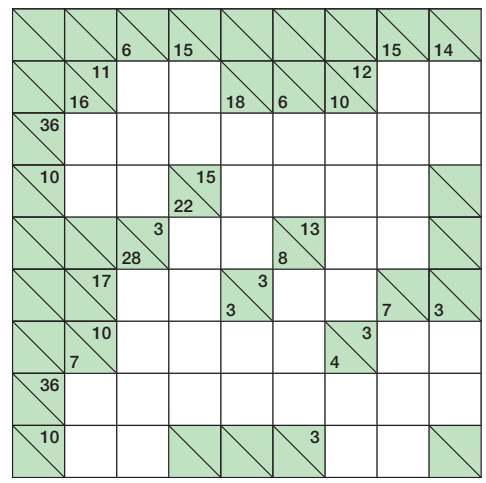
ACROSS
2 Mimics (8)
9 Gives a speech (6)
10 Agreeable (4)
11 Greek cheese (4)
13 Thick fabric (5)
14 Nut in twig (anag.) (9)
16 Punctuation mark (5)
19 Amphibian (4)
20 Type of berry (4)
21 Fill up a tank (6)
22 Reaffirm (8)

DOWN
1 Orchestra leader (9)
3 Type of parrot (5)
4 Object (4)
5 Report trivial complaints (4,5)
6 At that time (4)
7 Lengthen (6)
8 Imaginary earthly paradise (7-2)
12 Nap (6)
15 Bring upon oneself (5)
17 _ Hawke, actress (4)
18 Secure (4)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

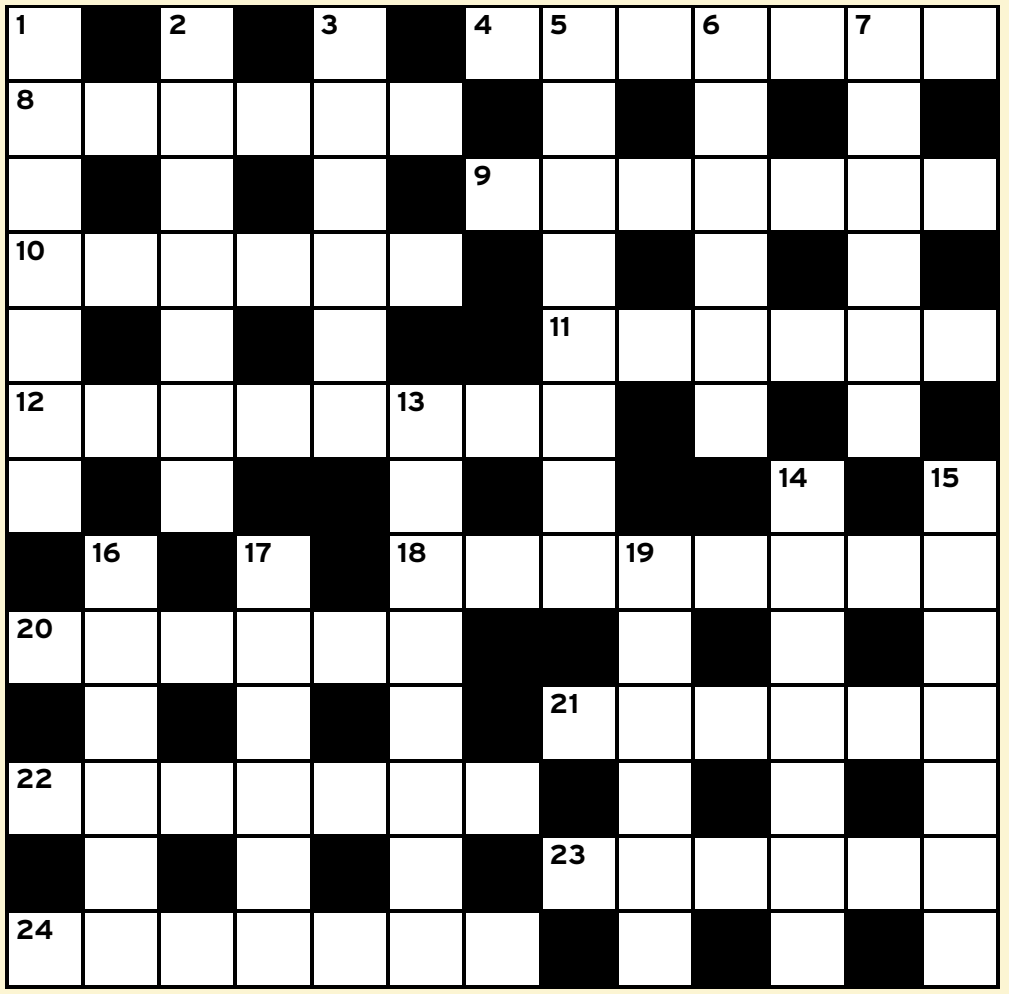
ACROSS

4 Former kingdom that comprised much of modern Spain (7)
8 FR, British literary critic whose volumes include The Common Pursuit and New Bearings In English Poetry (6)
9 Dick, 1968 Olympic men's high jump champion (7)
10 In fencing, an acknowledgement that a scoring hit has been made (6)
11 River that flows to the Euphrates to form the Shatt-al-Arab delta (6)
12 Volcano in central Ecuador (8)
18 The number represented as one followed by twelve zeros (8)
20 One of the three gorgons in Greek mythology (6)
21 The part of a firearm behind the barrel or bore (6)
22 Charles, French social reformer born in 1772 who advocated a reorganisation of society into self-sufficient units (7)
23 Third sign of the zodiac (6)
24 Lester Bowles, winner of the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize (7)

DOWN

1 Glacier in Switzerland that is the largest in Europe (7)
2 'The ---', Robert Rodriguez film starring Jordana Brewster as Delilah Profitt (7)
3 Chesspiece that can only move diagonally (6)
5 Giacomo, world 500cc motorcycling champion from 1966 to 1972 (8)
6 Island north east of Trinidad whose chief town is Scarborough (6)
7 Philip, author of the verse collection The Whitsun Weddings (6)
13 1998 novel by Kathy Lette (5,3)
14 Beethoven opera that was originally produced under the title Leonore (7)
15 City in California that is the site of Disneyland (7)
16 Donkey in stories by AA Milne (6)
17 --- Bell was an early pseudonym of the writer Charlotte Brontë (6)
19 Alan Jay, US songwriter who collaborated with Frederick Loewe on the show Camelot (6)

Solution tomorrow



Stuck on the puzzle? Call
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SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow

3	6						9	
			6		5			3
	7				9		2	
2		3		9				
			8	5		2		1
6		5		7		3		
	2		9		4			
1		8					3	
			5		8			

7						5		4
	6			7	4			
1				5				2
6		1					2	
			6	8		7	5	
	5	8		2				
			3		5			
			4				6	
					7	2		1

			4	9	7			
			3					
					8			

8		3						
			9	4	8			
2		9						
				7	4		1	
3					9		6	
4		6					7	
			5			8		1
5	9							
	8		3	9		4		7

			7		1			
				5				2
			2	6				
			3		9		7	6
				3	4	1		
			2		8		5	
				6				
					6		2	
			8		2			6

WORD BUILDER

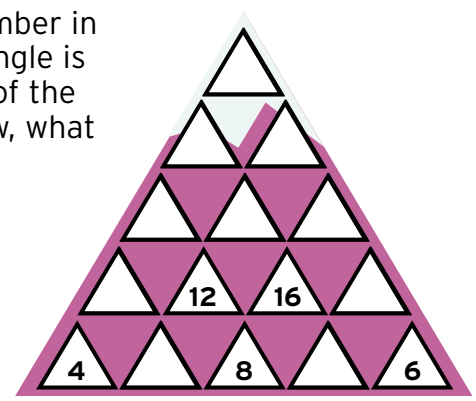
Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

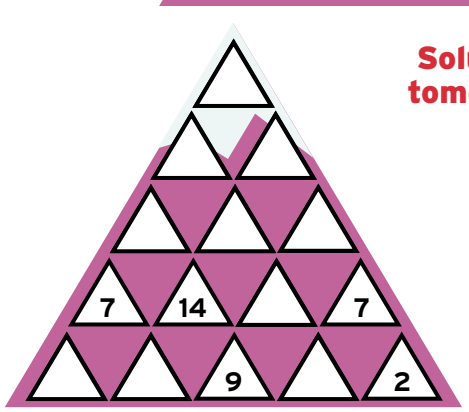
Solution tomorrow

1	□□□	1 Circuit
2	□□□□	2 Wan
3	□□□□□	3 Fold
4	□□□□□□	4 Roof of the mouth
5	□□□□□	5 Jumped
6	□□□□	6 Fuel source
7	□□□	7 Faucet

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?





Solution tomorrow

SMALL CROSSWORD

Across:
1 Apprehend,
7 Strafe,
9 Sees,
10 Filth,
12 Stir,
13 Selective,
14 Slur,
16 Olive,
18 Iced,
19 Invade,
20 Sweetener.

Down:
1 Assessor,
2 Prey,
3 Rasher,
4 Efficient,
5 Eel,
6 Native,
8 Shredder,
11 Yellow,
12 Strive,
15 Scan,
17 Ire.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow

WORDSEARCH

H	Z	F	P	X	J	J	G	U	G	I	L	R	M	M
T	F	H	W	Y	D	B	R	E	D	L	U	O	M	S
I	E	J	T	S	P	A	R	K	S	B	C	D	G	D
C	K	J	O	R	J	S	V	Y	I	L	H	S	M	S
Q	O	Q	G	I	A	H	N	B	R	A	I	Q	R	B
S	M	F	M	N	O	E	P	E	D	Z	M	X	O	B
W	S	J	L	T	I	S	H	J	Q	E	N	L	X	H
C	V	W	B	A	K	L	R	I	N	F	E	R	N	O
S	W	A	R	M	T	H	D	N	R	U	Y	P	O	D
R	B	O	N	F	I	R	E	N	R	U	G	L	O	W
E	W	Q	I	C	H	F	S	W	I	E	J	K	Q	L
B	T	A	E	H	D	P	Y	B	X	K	I	B	V	A
M	R	A	I	K	Y	O	E	O	M	R	K	K	M	O
E	D	I	W	R	C	X	D	S	E	M	A	L	F	C
R	J	G	E	G	T	P	I	Z	P	L	N	Z	V	D

WORDS RELATED TO FIRE

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

ASHES ● BLAZE ● BONFIRE ● CHIMNEY
COAL ● EMBERS ● FLAMES ● GLOW
HEARTH ● HEAT ● INFERNO ● KINDLING
LOGS ● PYRE ● SMOKE ● SMOULDER
SPARKS ● WARMTH

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: **1** Boomerang, **8** Eye, **9** Observation, **11** Extreme, **12** Poser, **13** Raider, **15** Keep on, **17** Paper, **18** Explore, **20** Annihilated, **22** Roc, **23** Stratagem.
Down: **2** Orb, **3** Eerie, **4** Awaken, **5** Glimpse, **6** Lend support, **7** Reference, **10** Sets in place, **11** Enrapture, **14** Errands, **16** Tether, **19** Pilot, **21** Ewe.

WORDSEARCH

H	N	L	U	L	F	Z	B	G	W	S	C	J	I	I
O	W	F	K	A	Y	A	K	O	C	A	N	O	E	J
V	J	S	Y	B	N	N	H	H	S	T	X	P	B	H
E	U	Q	H	R	I	D	H	P	K	C	I	N	N	J
R	N	H	V	A	R	T	A	O	B	E	S	U	O	H
C	D	I	D	T	U	E	R	E	L	W	A	R	T	H
R	T	N	R	G	N	Z	F	Z	V	S	U	C	M	A
A	Q	B	B	A	E	U	S	E	F	S	A	L	C	L
F	V	O	Y	Z	M	T	P	E	G	T	O	I	T	O
T	A	K	H	C	T	B	F	F	A	R	Q	F	R	D
T	B	Z	G	A	T	E	U	M	P	V	A	E	R	N
T	N	U	N	R	H	F	A	S	B	M	T	B	P	O
M	G	K	I	N	C	R	Q	L	G	T	B	O	P	G
A	E	B	D	U	A	V	N	N	U	Z	C	A	M	K
R	D	W	Y	N	Y	H	S	C	B	X	S	T	D	M

ARROW-WORD

	L		K		B		I		B		R								
V	I	E	N	N	A		C	R	U	D	E								
	A		O		T	H	E	I	R		M								
G	R	O	T	T	O			P	E	S	O								
		P			N	A	G		A	C	T								
O	U	T	C	A	S	T		C	U	R	E								
	F		E			L	E	A		A		R			H				
M	O	T	O	R		A		L	A	W	F	U	L	L	Y				
		A		A	S	S	E	M	B	L	A	G	E		M				
D	Y	N	A	M	O		B		L		I		T	A	N				
	E	G	G		U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A		S					
	A		O	N	T	O		H		O		P	A	S	S				
G	R	E	G		H	O	L	Y	G	R	A	I	L		I				
				A		U	S	E	D		A	P	E	X					
I	M	P	S			T	S	A	R		M								
	P			A	G	A		R	Y	D	E	R							
S	T	A	R		W	A	R		E	R	E								
	O		D	I	A		O	M	E	G	A								
A	N	T	I		Y	E	W		P	E	P								

SUDOKU EASY

3	2	5	8	4	7	6	9	1
9	1	8	2	5	6	3	4	7
6	7	4	9	3	1	8	2	5
4	5	7	6	1	8	9	3	2
2	3	1	4	7	9	5	6	8
8	6	9	3	2	5	1	7	4
5	9	6	7	8	2	4	1	3
7	8	3	1	6	4	2	5	9
1	4	2	5	9	3	7	8	6

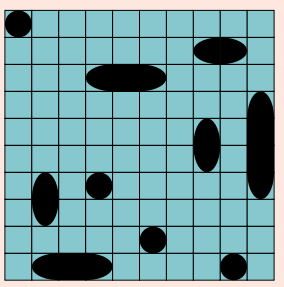
SUDOKU MEDIUM

3	4	7	6	2	8	9	5	1
6	8	9	3	5	1	4	2	7
1	2	5	4	9	7	6	8	3
9	5	4	1	6	3	8	7	2
7	6	2	5	8	9	1	3	4
8	1	3	2	7	4	5	9	6
5	7	1	8	4	2	3	6	9
4	9	8	7	3	6	2	1	5
2	3	6	9	1	5	7	4	8

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

8	7	2	3	6	5	4	9	1
4	9	5	7	2	1	8	6	3
3	1	6	4	8	9	2	5	7
9	2	8	1	4	6	3	7	5
5	3	4	8	9	7	1	2	6
1	6	7	2	5	3	9	4	8
6	4	3	5	1	2	7	8	9
7	8	9	6	3	4	5	1	2
2	5	1	9	7	8	6	3	4

BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

		8	1	2			7	1
	2	7	3	1			9	2
	1	9		3	1	2	4	
		2	1		3	4		
			2	1		1	4	
		1	3	2	4		3	1
	1	2			7	3	1	2
	2	3			9	1	2	

WORD BUILDER

Bar, Bear, Sabre, Brakes, Break, Bark, Ark

TARGET

REVELLING
elver, even, ever, evil, give, given, grieve, level, lever, levering, live, liven, liver, nerve, neve, never, relive, revel, REVELLING, revile, rive, riven, veer, veering, vegie, veil, vein, verge, vile, viler, vine

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Reject, Seduce, Hat, Sari, Omen, Shampoo, Left, Pith, Sheep, Talk, Tomb, Quest, Song, Cyst, Harbour, Halo, Atom, Ape, Pester, Needle.
Down: Lotus, Erase, Orate, Felon, Exist (clue), Ghost, Thrash, Uproar, Ewe, Staple, Stolen, Droop, Craze, Ivory, Chest, Scowl, Habit.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 2, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 35, 38.
Across: Model, Railway, Jacks, Escapades, Five, Into, Cascade, High, Toss, Mountable, Avian, Quietly, Snuff. **Down:** Fathom, Okapi, Ovum, Exchanged, Lose, Sows, Laxly, Fatal, Axel, Ears, Sleaziest, Bake, Scarf, Shocks.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: SQUAD
Down: BOOTS

Puzzles

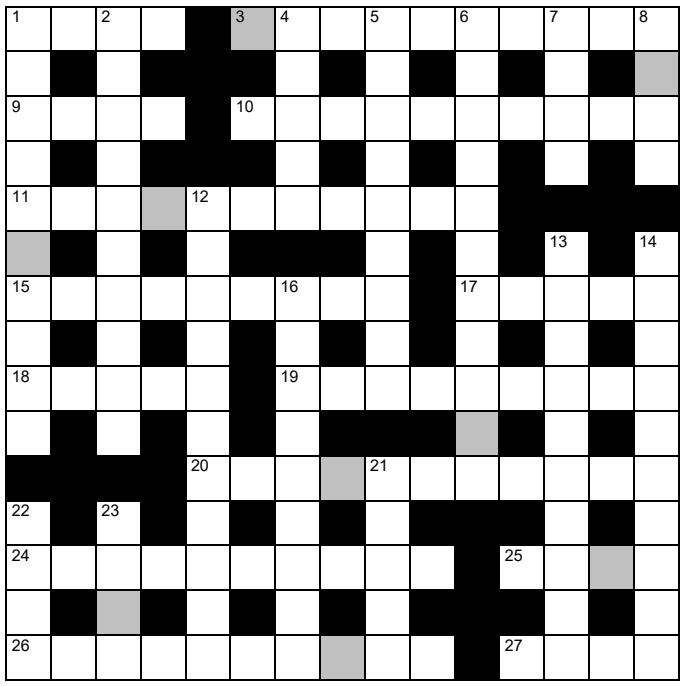
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Ribbon stuck initially on tree (4)
3 Cavort around kitchen appliance to find origin (10)
9 Boast to a bird (4)
10 Establishing I am publishing (10)
11 Option to change local person (11)
15 Found his stable dilapidated (9)
17 Reportedly influenced by material (5)
18 Curt during quieter sermon (5)
19 Eccentric, sour, lucid and absurd (9)
20 Delicate swarm starts to understand (3,3,5)
24 Sketch a safe cartridge but do not succeed (4,1,5)
25 The burden we bear? (4)
26 Lazy person bringing Snow White's friend to top (10)
27 Employed American journalist (4)

DOWN

1 Religious ritual next to old capital (10)
2 'Drinks With Politician' is a novella (5,5)
4 Strange graduate has a routine (5)
5 Disappeared to have back of dresser polished (9)
6 Scans online for change – silly (11)
7 Nothing about a form of digital protection (4)
8 Hence in another gondola (4)
12 Authorise games, thanks to politician (6-5)
13 Be craving small possessions (10)
14 Made aware of unusual sets inside (10)
16 I will cure the endless sickness (3,6)
21 When nature contains dye (5)
22 Strange to get second chances (4)
23 Animal and its fur, we hear (4)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 20, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 21 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

LAST FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Hesitation, 6 Bass, 10 Bunting, 11 Erasure, 12 Thickhead, 13 Elect, 14 Bliss, 15 Smell a rat, 17 Fleshpots, 20 Offer, 21 Trace, 23 Eagerness, 25 Impress, 26 Addling, 27 Gnat, 28 Sweeteners. **DOWN:** 1 Habit, 2 Sensitive, 3 Thick as thieves, 4 Tigress, 5 Overdue, 7 Amuse, 8 Spectator, 9 Waterloo Bridge, 14 Befitting, 16 Reflexive, 18 Oversaw, 19 Signage, 22 Alpha, 24 Sighs. **Prizeword:** Spillage

TARGET

C	O	U
I	M	N
R	E	D

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

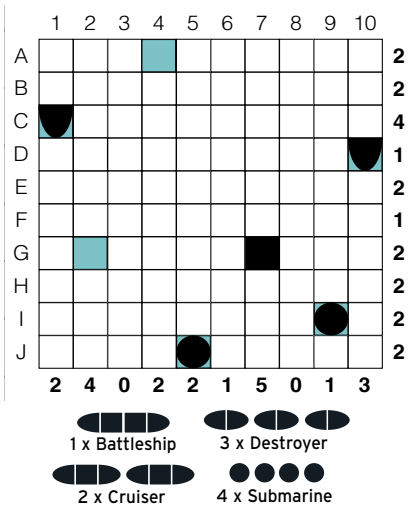
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 34; **very good** 51; **excellent** 67 **(or more).** Solution tomorrow

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 36 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

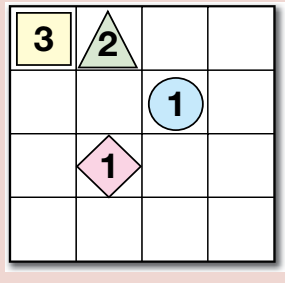
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

A	3	24	29	5	6	2	31	5	5	30	8	22	35
B	27	29	9	26	33	23	3	23	1	29	2	28	12
C	24	1	29	38	38	20	11	30	31	16	7	21	23
D	35	15	4	14	13	28	22	21	31	5	5	31	36
E	40	22	29	1	14	16	1	20	40	33	12	27	33
F	9	21	16	25	3	36	22	10	31	35	26	20	9
G	5	32	25	20	5	8	14	7	36	18	14	22	37
H	13	3	26	4	14	21	22	19	9	15	7	40	13
I	16	8	1	16	22	4	24	30	17	6	40	31	36
J	17	26	32	6	2	39	1	25	4	11	33	2	20
K	18	19	3	13	10	27	31	18	11	6	34	29	31
L	11	6	10	10	22	9	35	30	8	2	23	31	18
M	30	14	4	7	5	28	26	29	21	39	31	5	27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32 K	33	34	35	36	37	38 F	39 G	40

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow

DIFFICULTY: 7/10; **TARGET:** 22 mins; **CLUE:** Unrest over nothing for a bare patch.

A	■	15	■	6	■	1	■	7	■	■	■	6	■
B	■	26	24	21	17	12	6	1	■	12	25	18	16
C	■	26	■	18	■	5	■	24	■	13	■	8	■
D	10	19	7	1	■	19	20	8	17	19	13	6	19
E	■	15	■	■	■	17	■	13	■	2	■	3	■
F	4	18	21	1	1	21	■	25	18	12	1	19	13
G	■	■	■	24	■	■	■	■	■	15	■	■	■
H	4	24	12	8	7	19	■	12	13	18	8	14	19
I	■	19	■	12	■	13	■	13	■	■	■	8	■
J	9	15	24	22	18	15	13	17	■	7	8	18	1
K	■	7	■	26	■	6	■	21	■	23	■	1	■
L	11	21	7	3	■	1	21	13	7	12	24	19	■
M	■	13	■	■	■	7	■	19	■	22	■	24	■

1	2	3	4	5 X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 27; INTERMEDIATE = 19; ADVANCED = 351.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES

PUZZLES SPECIAL

8 PAGES OF TANTALISING TEASERS!

PUZZLES

WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the listed iems in the grid? Words may read forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

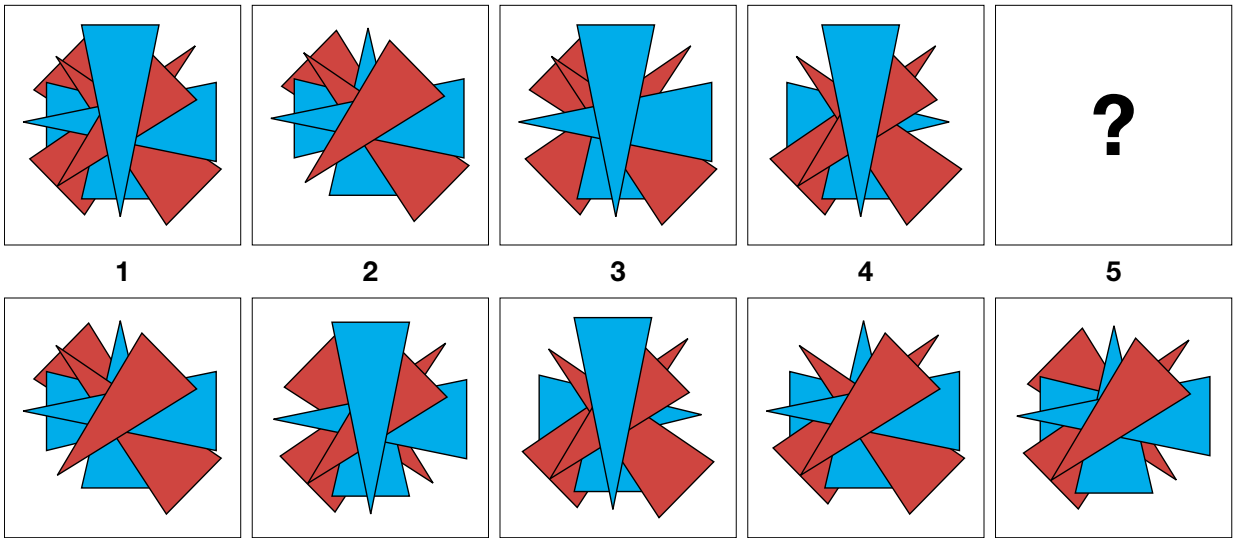
MR MEN

Q	Q	U	J	C	U	S	G	F	U	S	S	Y	J	R	L	Y	L	D
B	D	A	Y	D	R	E	A	M	Y	N	D	O	S	T	G	A	F	D
J	U	L	P	K	F	Y	Q	S	V	O	R	M	A	M	D	F	Z	W
U	O	C	M	Z	E	O	M	V	N	W	X	Q	V	H	A	P	P	Y
Y	C	U	M	Z	U	U	R	R	P	O	P	X	U	H	K	L	D	C
U	U	A	E	N	L	S	V	G	B	L	I	K	F	I	O	E	L	M
T	L	E	S	C	T	L	H	R	E	C	P	S	T	W	E	B	K	S
C	N	Q	S	K	E	S	E	O	I	T	M	L	Y	R	M	T	G	T
S	U	H	Y	C	C	T	Q	J	A	G	F	I	G	N	X	E	M	T
M	N	G	Q	M	T	F	F	D	B	J	V	U	N	O	C	B	A	E
Z	U	L	O	A	G	R	U	M	P	Y	Z	S	L	S	R	K	C	N
Z	M	D	H	S	T	R	O	N	G	J	M	I	G	E	V	N	M	F
X	T	C	D	O	W	O	B	G	N	O	B	L	Z	Y	U	V	S	Q
K	N	I	A	L	U	P	P	I	T	Y	O	L	T	O	R	B	C	O
S	S	A	G	M	E	Y	E	K	M	J	N	Y	B	I	D	D	B	P
C	O	M	A	S	Z	J	H	Z	E	G	X	R	Y	N	C	S	R	T
H	Z	Y	Q	Z	I	U	H	Q	O	R	B	U	M	P	P	K	Y	I
K	K	Y	I	Q	U	J	E	L	L	Y	L	S	B	S	I	O	L	S
Q	V	D	C	T	E	G	G	N	P	A	D	H	C	V	J	C	N	E

BOUNCE
BUMP
CHATTERBOX
CLUMSY
DAYDREAM
DIZZY
FORGETFUL
FUNNY
FUSSY
GREEDY
GRUMPY
HAPPY
JELLY
LAZY
MEAN
MESSY
MUDDLE
NOISY
NOSEY
QUIET
RUSH
SILLY
SMALL
SNEEZE
SNOW
STRONG
TICKLE
UPPITY

PATTERN MAKER

Which one of the numbered squares on the bottom row should replace the question mark to follow the logical pattern in this sequence?



CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter. Use your knowledge of words to solve the puzzle. Two letters are given to start you off.

8	18	23	5	■	10	8	18	24	11	4	5	7
2	■	2	■	■	2	■	■	2	■	16	■	5
16	■	16	24	14	2	19	5	1	■	26	■	10
4	2	22	■	■	■	18	■	■	21	16	7	10
20	■	12	■	3	16	25	7	■	■	1	■	5
■	7	10	18	1	■	1	■	6	15	9	25	5
■	■	■	■	5	■	15	■	15	■	■	■	■
20	16	7	10	9	■	10	■	1	18	25	7	■
18 I	■	13	■	■	12	18	10	7	■	1	■	15
22 G	4	16	5	■	■	2	■	■	■	5	4	23
18	■	15	■	22	5	24	16	18	24	5	■	10
10	■	7	■	2	■	■	7	■	■	17	■	5
7	14	12	5	20	16	4	5	■	25	5	15	1

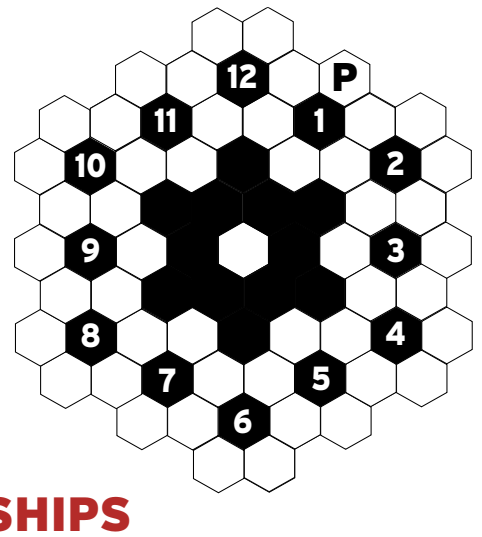
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 I	19	20	21	22 G	23	24	25	26

HONEYCOMB

All the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

1 Doorway
2 Automatons
3 Daze
4 Counter
5 Boil
6 Humour
7 Revise
8 One of two
9 Make loved
10 Separate
11 Straight
12 Positioned



BATTLESHIPS

In Battleships, you have to find where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the ten by ten grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

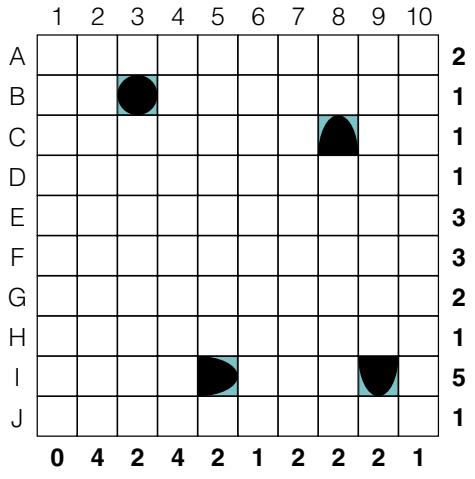
THE FLEET

1 x Battleship

2 x Cruiser

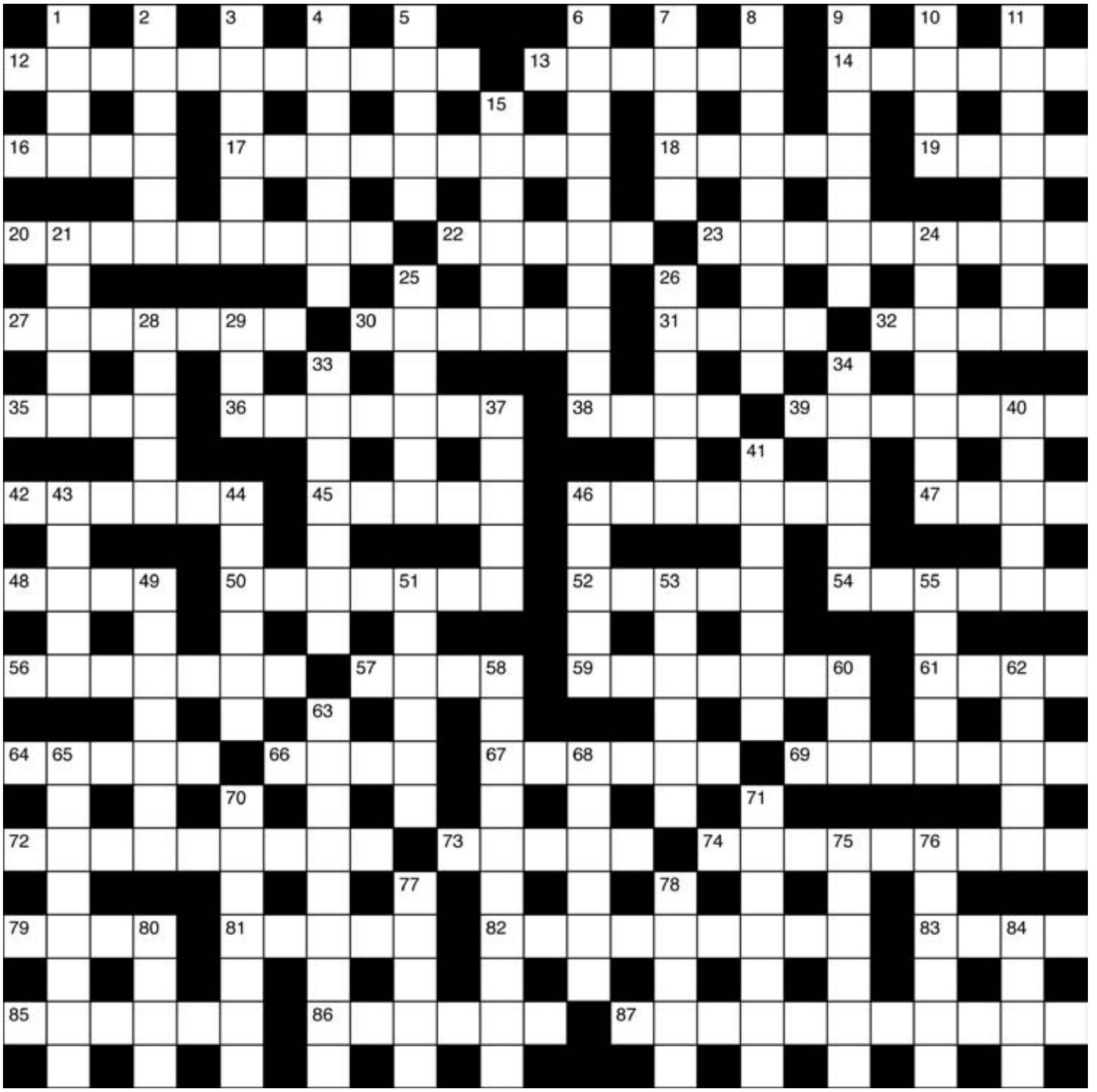
3 x Destroyer

4 x Submarine



GIANT TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

Choose between straight and cryptic clues in this giant crossword – both sets lead to the same answers.



STRAIGHT

ACROSS

12 Close thing (5,6)
13 Language (6)
14 Under cover (6)
16 Stone (4)
17 Attack (9)
18 Assumed (5)
19 Ponder (4)
20 Malefactor (9)
22 Guide (5)
23 Fell (5,4)
27 Bird (7)
30 Hurtle (6)
31 Collar (4)
32 Rage (5)
35 Stop (4)
36 Complain (7)
38 Gangway (4)
39 Obviously (7)
42 Thinks (6)
45 Problem (5)
46 Bit (7)
47 Well-behaved (4)
48 Floppy (4)
50 Lack (7)
52 Prevaricate (5)
54 Easy one (6)
56 Marked (7)
57 Separate (4)
59 Save (7)
61 Patient (4)
64 Rest (5)
66 Last part (4)
67 Whole (6)
69 Flexible (7)
72 Unhappy (9)
73 Is afraid (5)
74 Notability (9)
79 Tie up (4)
81 Outside (5)
82 Trying (6,1,2)
83 If so (4)
85 Corresponded (6)
86 Kind (6)
87 Corrected (3,8)

DOWN

1 Golf shot (4)
2 Purloined (6)
3 Give (6)
4 Gritted (7)
5 Male name (5)
6 No procrastinator (4,6)
7 The same (5)
8 Got rid of (6,3)
9 Boat (7)
10 First man (4)
11 Understood (8)
15 Light (6)
21 Respond (5)
24 Picture (7)
25 Anxiety (6)
26 Undercoat (6)
28 Ladies (5)
29 Drink (3)
33 Make up (7)
34 Mixes (6)
37 Number (5)
40 Slack (5)
41 Deceive (7)
43 Juncture (5)
44 Rattled (6)
46 Sends (5)
49 Confidential (7)
51 Almost (6)
53 Charm (6)
55 Adds on (5)
58 Don't worry (5,5)
60 Fish (3)
62 Oscillate (5)
63 Gad about (9)
65 Bars (8)
68 Do well (6)
70 Rush down (7)
71 Go back (7)
75 Searches (6)
76 Fool (6)
77 Pen (5)
78 Nose (5)
80 Is adequate (4)
84 Repeat (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS

12 Still showing to be a close thing (5,6)
13 "Is taken in hand" translated to a foreign language (6)
14 Do roughly iron the outside and inside (6)
16 A palomino's head carved in stone (4)
17 Vandalising the salon, a drunken thug made the attack (9)
18 Assumed to have been swallowed by (5)
19 Get heated when you think about (4)
20 Rode with an outlaw (9)
22 I plan to take round, as guide (5)
23 "Sell", or is it "Fell"? (5,4)
27 Fly round ahead of the bird (7)
30 Tear the band (6)
31 Coming back with a f-fur collar (4)
32 Temper, boy! (5)
35 Stop and spring from (4)
36 Being a nuisance about, go off and make a fuss (7)
38 It won't take you straight down to ground level (4)
39 In an unattractive way, obviously (7)
42 Thinks one's very good in (6)
45 The sitter is the problem (5)
46 The bit left over I swallowed (7)
47 Try reforming, do. Be virtuous (4)
48 Left, by the little rascal, in need of a stiffener (4)
50 The sailor scene is cut, due to the lack of (7)
52 Prevaricate about the accommodation (5)
54 Who's left holding the baby is easy to answer (6)
56 Marked the wrong dates in (7)
57 Having knocked back gin, have a rift with (4)
59 Save a number in the wild (7)
61 Sign that this patient isn't an outpatient (4)
64 Tell the news about the holiday (5)
66 End with a story read aloud (4)
67 The whole ten I set about (6)
69 It's manufactured in stretch lace: flexible (7)
72 Unhappy, somehow bear a wry smile about (9)
73 Is afraid it will be noisy to listeners (5)
74 It takes a body time to become a somebody (9)
79 Tie up though it's a nuisance (4)
81 Outside of having insurance (5)
82 Attacking verbally, which is trying (6,1,2)
83 In that case, will have time to go round the hospital (4)
85 Said yes, they corresponded (6)
86 Mother and aunt wandering about (6)
87 Corrected a tendency to be crooked? (3,8)

DOWN

1 Shot to provide a little something to eat (4)
2 Had made off with fifty in assorted notes (6)
3 Provide with a c-car (6)
4 At "Terrible snag", he had gritted his teeth (7)
5 Man the film star most likes to be seen with (5)
6 Getting things done, does he not stop for meals? (4,6)
7 The same day, it got to (5)
8 Had got rid of agitatedly (6,3)
9 Can load upright into the wooden boat (7)
10 A mother to the motherless man (4)
11 Understood to have been stalked by (8)
15 Light flickering in that I get worried about (6)
21 Behave badly; are taken to court (5)
24 Making the doctor frightening in the picture (7)
25 In one's anxiety to make clear (6)
26 Tell beforehand to get a rain coat (6)
28 Won round myself by the ladies (5)
29 The pin-up's drink (3)
33 Calm down and make it up (7)
34 Gets mixed up with a weight-lifter – it blows over (6)
37 Again in the afternoon (5)
40 Don't keep the O in "droopy" (5)
41 Deceive like mad, concocting lies right through (7)
43 Juncture at which to draw attention to (5)
44 Rattled, has gone off with the man (6)
46 After a second, sends (5)
49 For your ears only, Tommy (7)
51 Almost a quarter to: ahead of time (6)
53 As a whole, rue turning on the charm (6)
55 Adds on the said levy (5)
58 Having shown up twice, you needn't worry (5,5)
60 In general, upset by fish (3)
62 What the born golfer had when he was a tot? (5)
63 The brave quartet, entering, gad about (9)
65 Complaints about the bad gin in bars (8)
68 Succeed in getting a number into their awful clutches (6)
70 In case the bounder should rush down (7)
71 Go back to stringing the pearls, having string (7)
75 Searches for and, having caught, goes off about (6)
76 A fool, but a fool that gets sense (6)
77 Saying "OK", dash off (5)
78 Nose with tobacco inside (5)
80 Cooks and serves (4)
84 Repeat what was said in the chop-house (4)

PUZZLES

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 square includes all the digits from 1 to 9

EASY

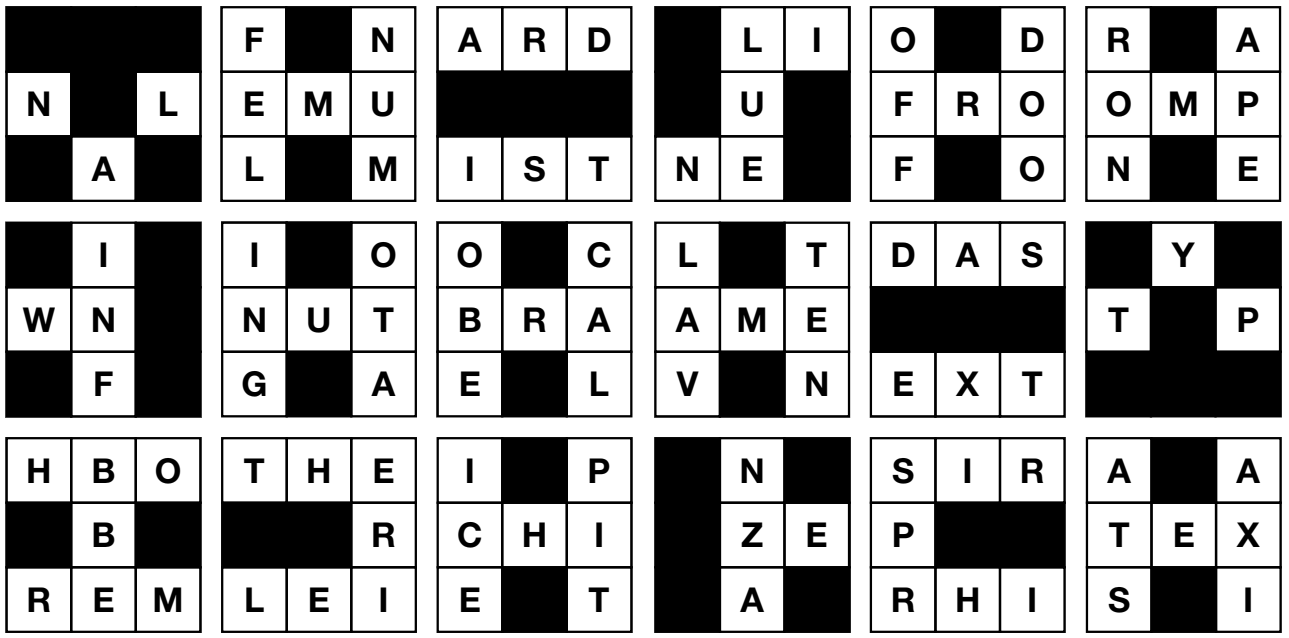
7			2		8		4	
						1	8	6
			1	4	5		2	
9		7		2		8		1
		3	9		7	2		
8		5		1		7		9
	7		8	5	1			
5	3	9						
	8		4		3			5

HARD

	9		1			2		
6	1	7						
	3		4					6
5		9		7				
			8		1			
				5		9		4
4					8		2	
						8	3	9
		8			2		5	

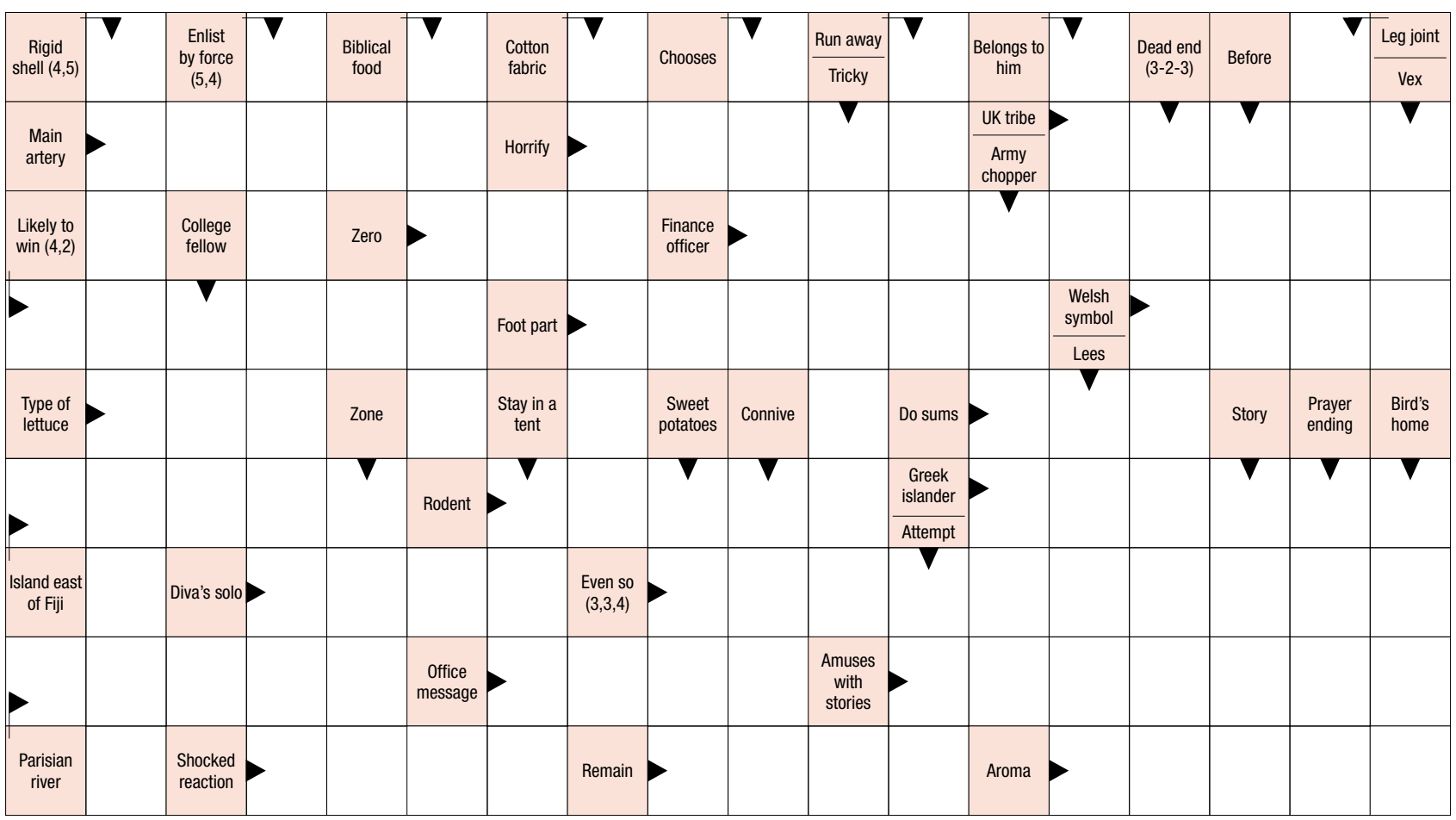
DOUBLE JIGWORD

Arrange these crossword fragments to create two completed symmetrical crosswords.


N L A
F N E M U L M
A R D I S T
L I U N E
O D F R O F O
R A O M P N E
I W N F
I O N U T G A
O C B R A E L
L T A M E V N
D A S E X T
Y T P
H B O B R E M
T H E R L E I
I P C H I E T
N Z E A
S I R P R H I
A A T E X S I

ARROW WORD

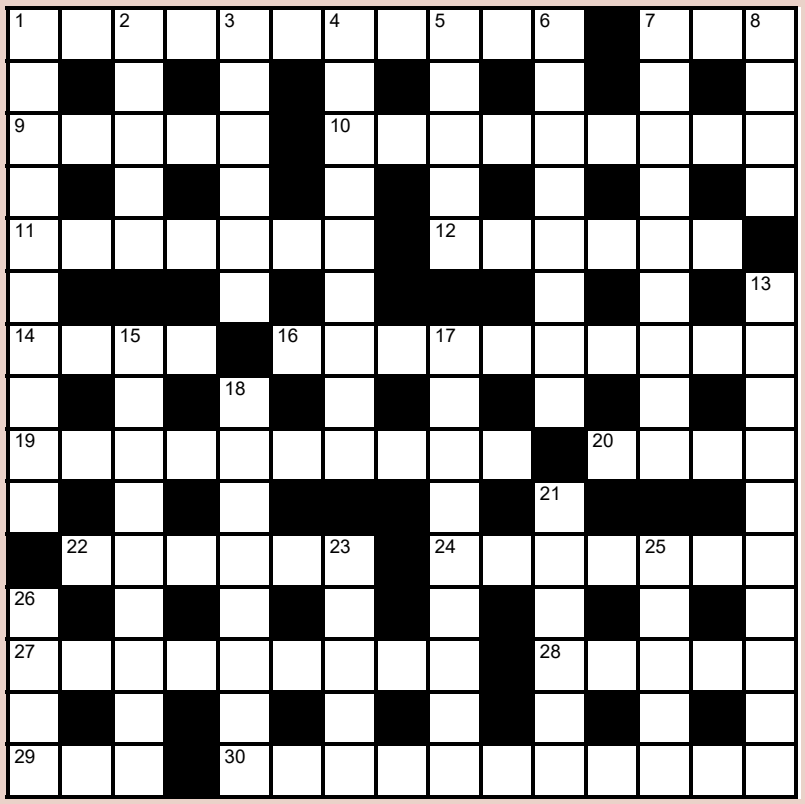
The arrows show the direction in which the answer to each clue should be placed.



PUZZLES

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Test your grasp of the facts with this general knowledge challenge.



ACROSS

1 River in SE Iraq formed by the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (5,2-4)
7 US television sitcom featuring the character Gordon Shumway from the planet Melmac (3)
9 Surname of brothers Jakob and Wilhelm, German folklorists (5)
10 Comedian whose roles included Signor Emanuel Ravelli in 1930 film Animal Crackers (5,4)
11 Rhyming slang for thief (3-4)
12 Whole or untouched (6)
14 Tropical vegetable related to taro plants (4)
16 Town in Hertfordshire founded in 1903 as the first garden city in England (10)
19 Samuel ___, author of 1753 novel The History of Sir Charles Grandison (10)
20 Otto ___, 1944 winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (4)
22 The ___, English pop group fronted by singer Morrissey who disbanded in 1987 (6)
24 H.R.F. ___, author of 2008 novel Inspector Ghote's First Case (7)
27 Alex ___, 1973 Wimbledon tennis men's singles runner-up (9)
28 Underground cell or chapel (5)
29 Arthur ___, journalist born in 1875 best known for The Children's Encyclopaedia (3)
30 Author of novels Rescuing Rose and The Very Picture of You (6,5)

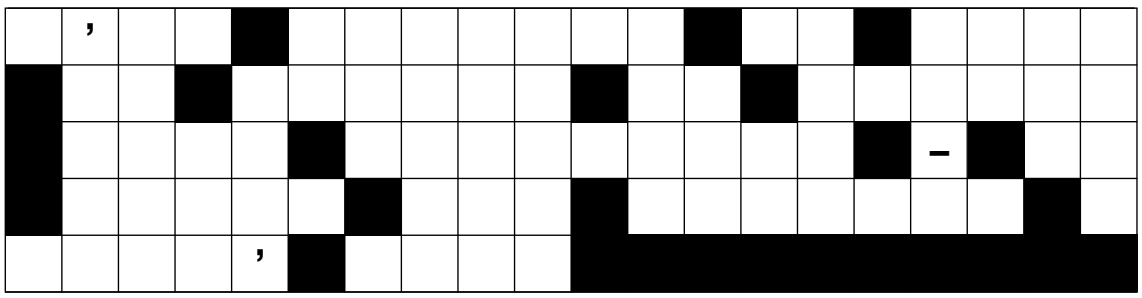
DOWN

1 2012 film comedy starring Alice Lowe and Steve Oram (10)
2 City in N Honshu, Japan; an important feudal town in the 8th century (5)
3 Indonesian dish made by deep-frying fermented soy beans, traditionally wrapped in banana leaves (6)
4 Cathedral city in Staffordshire; birthplace of Samuel Johnson (9)
5 Japanese natural therapy involving massage (5)
6 1940 film drama starring Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy (4,4)
7 Genus of trees which includes the monkey puzzle (9)
8 Jamie ___, Best Actor in a Leading Role Oscar winner for biopic Ray (4)
13 2016 US adaptation of BBC TV's Criminal Justice, starring Riz Ahmed and John Turturro (3,5,2)
15 Unit of length, one tenth of a metre (9)
17 1986 film comedy starring John Cleese and Penelope Wilton (9)
18 Argentine ruling general during the Falklands War (8)
21 B.S.E. is also called ___ disease (3,3)
23 Walled city in Tuscany, Italy that houses a 13th-century university (5)
25 Poem or prose work describing an idealised rural life (5)
26 Leader of congregational prayer in a mosque (4)

QUOTE DOWN

Drop the letters in each column to reconstruct a quote by Brian Clough. Words may be split across two lines.

E I	A A M V	B E R V Y	E O R S	M U Y	D O T	C E M T	A C E I T	I M N R W	D E E O T	E F	D H T U	L O U	L N T	D O R Y	E R	E P T	D I I	C I R	E K N Y



LOGIC

Can you work out the time and price of each person's activity?

The local sports centre hosted an open day in which it allowed non-members to try activities for a reduced cost. The centre's manager, Jenna, made a schedule for the day in advance, but due to a computer failure the schedule was wiped from the system.

On the morning of the open day, eager members of the public started to arrive, and Jenna tried to piece together the schedule by eavesdropping on their conversations.

"Football is my absolute favourite sport, I wouldn't dream of signing up for anything else. I think I'm starting an hour before you aren't I, Ruby?" asked Liam.

"Yes that's right, and although I'm not playing it, I do know that tennis was the cheapest activity," Ruby replied.

"I remember looking at the tariffs online too – I couldn't believe rock climbers have to pay twice as much as I do," remarked Nick.

A few minutes later, the other two attendees, Ethan and Christina, arrived.

"My coordination is terrible, so I certainly won't be playing a ball game. I also recall that my activity wasn't the first session, and unfortunately mine was also the most expensive sport," said Ethan.

"That's unlucky. I remember that both of the people taking part in activities in the morning are male and that the cost of rugby is double that of football, although I'm not taking part in either," Christina replied.

After hearing this, Jenna was able to create a full schedule for the day. Can you link each person to the correct activity, time and price?

	Rugby	Tennis	Rock climbing	Football	Judo	10 am	11 am	1 pm	3 pm	4 pm	£2.50	£3.00	£5.00	£6.00	£8.75
Liam															
Christina															
Ruby															
Nick															
Ethan															
£2.50															
£3.00															
£5.00															
£6.00															
£8.75															
10 am															
11 am															
1 pm															
3 pm															
4 pm															

BRAIN TRAINING

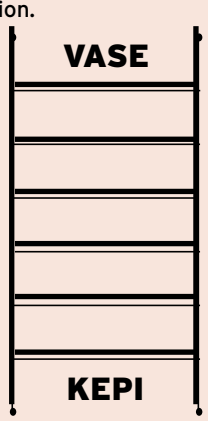
"Any man who reads too much and uses his own brain too little falls into lazy habits of thinking" – Einstein

Give your brain a proper workout with this fine selection of mini puzzles, designed to stimulate those little grey cells in five key areas – Words, Visualisation, Numbers, Memory and Logic.

WORDS

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word in the ladder. There may be more than one solution.



ANAGRAMS

Unscramble each of the words or phrases below to reveal the names of five school subjects.

SHINGLE

HAS PINS

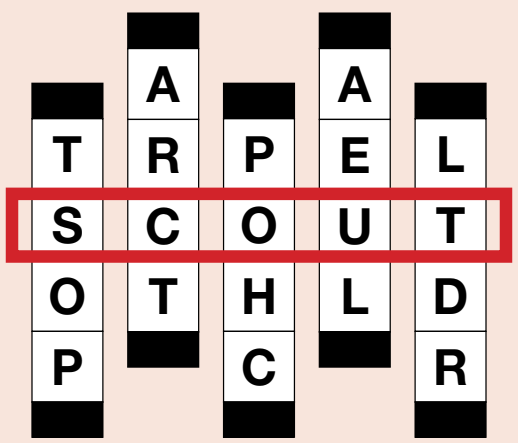
MATCH IS TAME

METHS! I CRY

CHIN OUT; DAILY PACES

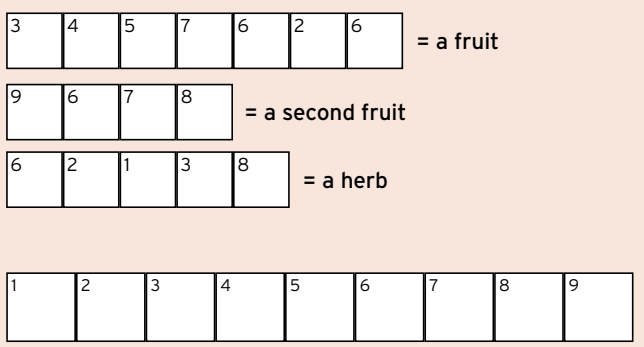
WORD SLIDE

How many regular English words can be spelled out using all the sliders? One word is spelled already. Target score: 11



NINER

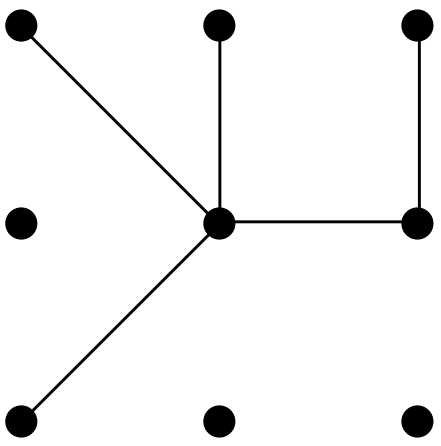
Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.



VISUALISATION

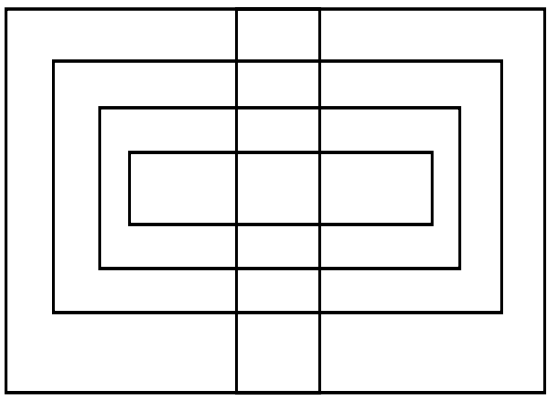
TRIANGLE

Draw **3** straight lines to make **6** triangles. Lines must be drawn from dot to dot, either passing through one dot or none at all. Triangles must not contain lines running through them, and every line segment must form part of a triangle.



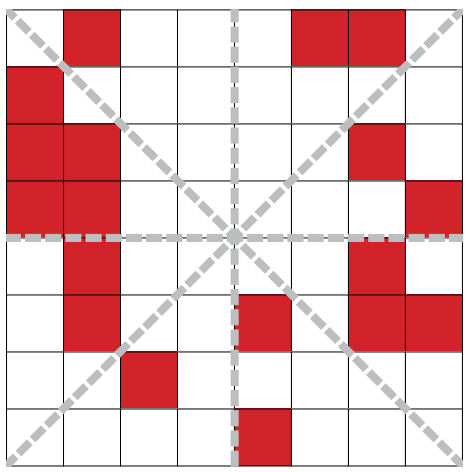
SHAPES

How many rectangles are there in the illustration below?



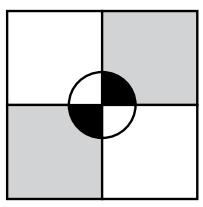
SYMMETRY

Shade in eight of the blank squares so that the pattern shows reflectional symmetry along one of the four axes shown.

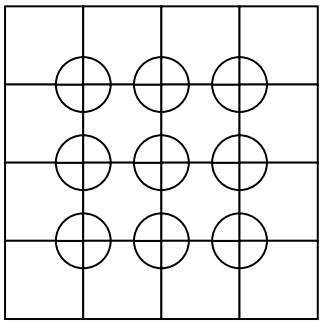


SEKI

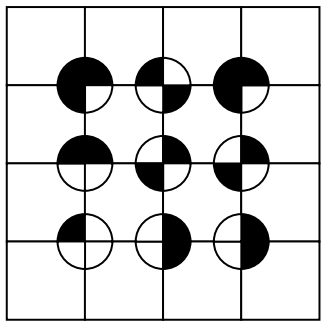
Using the blank grid, rotate some of the circles shown in the start grid and then shade in the corresponding squares (as shown right), so that shaded squares contain only black quarter-circles.



BLANK GRID

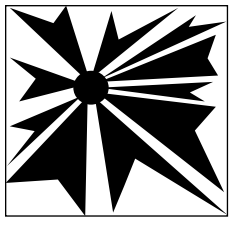


START GRID

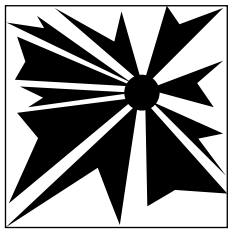


MIRROR IMAGE

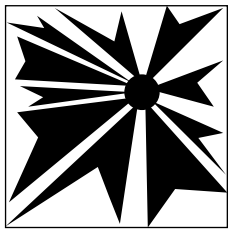
Which of the four images below is the mirror image of the one to the right?



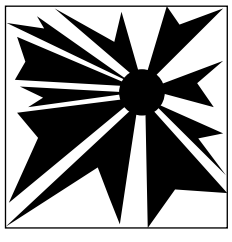
A



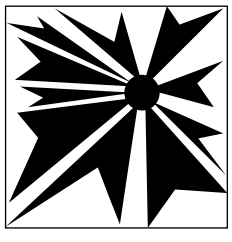
B



C



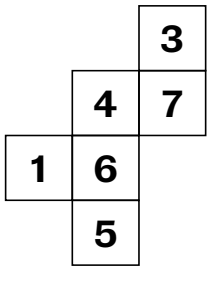
D



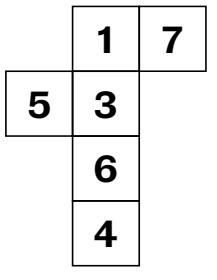
NETS

Which of these nets can be constructed to make a cube in which all pairs of opposite faces add up to a different number?

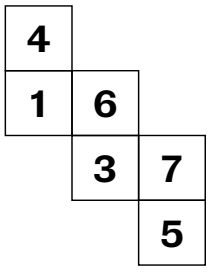
A



B



C



NUMBERS

SUMTHING

Place the listed numbers into the grid so that all sums are correct, reading left to right and top to bottom.

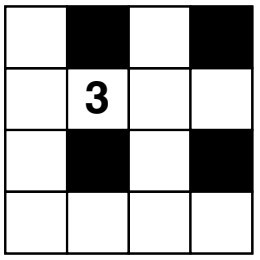
	×	6	=		
+	■	+	■	−	■
	×		=		
=	■	=	■	=	■
	+		=		

1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, 8, 9, 9

NUMBER JIG

Which one of the listed numbers won't fit in this mini grid?

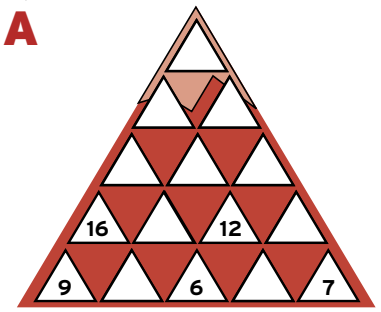
2348 4382
2438 8244
3228



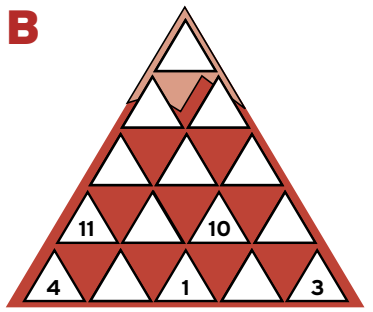
SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?

A



B



LOGIC

CELLS

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

		6				
		2	4			
		4				2
4	2		8			
	3					
		3	4			
		3		4		

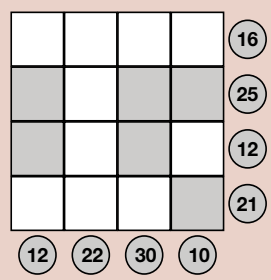
REASONING

1 Some flowers have been potted in a line from one to four. The iris is next to the rose but not in the red pot. The tulip is next to the grey pot and pot number four is not blue. Pot number two is between the lupin and the white pot. The rose is not next to pot number one and the lupin is not in pot number three or the blue pot. In which number and colour pot is each flower?

2 The pantomime performers took a bow to end the show. When bowing, Toni stood next to the dame and Charlie did not stand next to Alex or the witch. The princess did not stand next to Jack, who played one of the king or the dame. Assuming the performers stood in a straight line, which part did each performer play?

EVENS

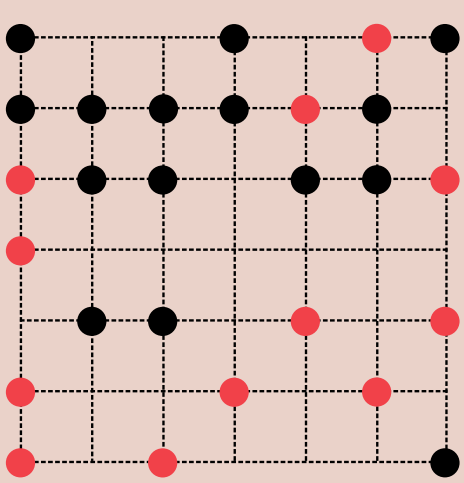
Insert any digit from 1 to 9 in the squares, so that the numbers in each row and column add up to the given totals. No digits may be repeated within a row or column, and even numbers must be placed in shaded squares.



DANGO

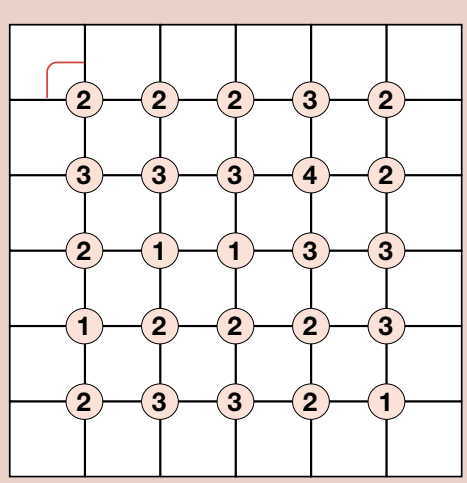
Draw lines between the dots to create four shapes in the grid. No shape may touch another and you must use all the dots. When a line reaches a dot, it turns as shown:

● 90° ● 45° or 135°



LOOP

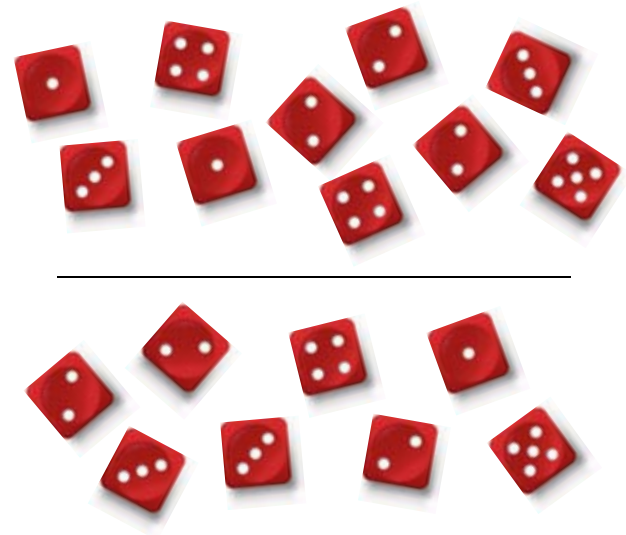
Draw a continuous loop in the grid so that the number in each circle corresponds to the number of adjacent squares containing turns in the loop. Part of the loop has been drawn to get you started.



MEMORY

DICE GAME

Cover the bottom group of dice, and look closely at the top group for ten seconds. Then cover the top group and show the bottom group. Which dice are missing?



LOST FOR WORDS

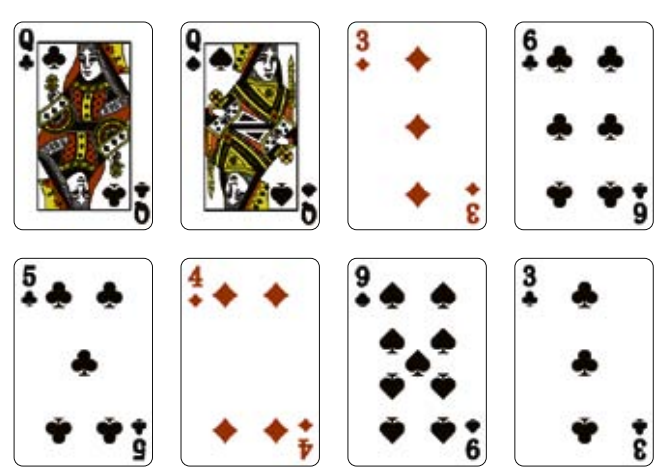
Cover the group of words on the right, then study the group on the left for two minutes. Then cover the group on the left and show the group on the right. Which words are missing?

CERES
CIRRUS
COWSLIP
DANDELION
DIANA
DORMOUSE
ENDEAVOUR
LATCH
LEMMING
LIMPET
MUSTARD
PERSEVERANCE
PORCUPINE
PORPOISE
PRESSURE
SATELLITE
SHRIMP
SKELETON
STONE
SUNSHINE
VULCAN

PORCUPINE
PRESSURE
CERES
SATELLITE
DORMOUSE
LEMMING
PORPOISE
SUNSHINE
STONE
DANDELION
COWSLIP
CIRRUS
PERSEVERANCE
DIANA
VULCAN
SKELETON
LIMPET
ENDEAVOUR

CONCENTRATION

Study this set of playing cards for thirty seconds, then cover them up and answer the questions below.



1 What is the total value of the four cards on the right half of the set? 2 How many cards are spades? 3 Which card is directly below the queen of clubs?

PUZZLES

30-SECOND BRAIN TEASER

Boost your brain power with our 30-second test. Start with the number on the left and follow the instructions. Beginners should aim to complete the puzzle in 30 seconds. Intermediates should finish their own puzzle and the Beginner's puzzle. Advanced players have 30 seconds to complete their own plus the Intermediate. Good luck!

BEGINNER	76	÷4	+6	Take the square root	+51	3/8 of this	Reverse the digits	×6	-27
INTERMEDIATE	22	×6	-56	3/4 of this	+115	75% of this	-85	6/11 of this	+143
ADVANCED	350	60% of this	+168	6/7 of this	-78	5/6 of this	-75	÷26	×25

ANSWER

SOLUTIONS

CODEWORD
1=R, 2=O, 3=P, 4=L, 5=E, 6=M, 7=S, 8=W, 9=Y, 10=T, 11=K, 12=H, 13=Q, 14=C, 15=A, 16=U, 17=Z, 18=I, 19=V, 20=D, 21=J, 22=G, 23=F, 24=N, 25=B, 26=X

HONEYCOMB
1 Portal. 2 Robots. 3 Stupor. 4 Oppose. 5 Seethe. 6 Temper. 7 Review. 8 Either. 9 Endear. 10 Divide. 11 Direct. 12 Placed.

PATTERN MAKER SQUARE 5. Eight triangles are stacked on top of each other. In each box, two triangles are removed. If the triangles are numbered 1-8 in a clockwise direction starting from the top blue triangle (counting the flat end of each triangle), then in the first box all triangles are visible; in the second, 1 and 6 are removed; in the third, 2 and 7 are removed; in the fourth, 3 and 8 are removed, and in the fifth, 4 and 1 are removed.

GIANT TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD
ACROSS: 12 Photo finish, 13 Danish, 14 Indoor, 16 Opal, 17 Onslaught, 18 Taken, 19 Mull, 20 Wrongdoer, 22 Pilot, 23 Knock down, 27 Lapwing, 30 Streak, 31 Ruff, 32 Paddy, 35 Stem, 36 Protest, 38 Ramp, 39 Plainly, 42 Opines, 45 Poser, 46 Portion, 47 Good, 48 Limp, 50 Absence, 52 Stall, 54 Sitter, 56 Stained, 57 Part, 59 Salvage, 61 Case, 64 Break, 66 Tail, 67 Entire, 69 Elastic, 72 Miserable, 73 Fears, 74 Personage, 79 Bind, 81 Cover, 82 Having a go, 83 Then, 85 Agreed, 86 Nature, 87 Put straight.
DOWN: 1 Chip, 2 Stolen, 3 Afford, 4 Gnashed, 5 Oscar, 6 Fast worker, 7 Ditto, 8 Shaken off, 9 Pinnace, 10 Adam, 11 Followed, 15 Ignite, 21 React, 24 Drawing, 25 Stress, 26 Primer, 28 Women, 29 Nip, 33 Compose, 34 Blends, 37 Three, 40 Loose, 41 Mislead, 43 Point, 44 Shaken, 46 Posts, 49 Private, 51 Nearly, 53 Allure, 55 Tacks, 58 There there, 60 Eel, 62 Swing, 63 Gallivant, 65 Railings, 68 Thrive, 70 Cascade, 71 Relapse, 75 Scours, 76 Nitwit, 77 Write, 78 Snout, 80 Does, 84 Echo.

GK CROSSWORD
1 Shatt Al-Arab, 7 ALF, 9 Grimm, 10 Chico Marx, 11 Tea-leaf, 12 Intact, 14 Eddo, 16 Letchworth, 19 Richardson, 20 Hahn, 22 Smiths, 24 Keating, 27 Metreveli, 28 Crypt, 29 Mee, 30 Isabel Wolff.
Down: 1 Sightseers, 2 Akita, 3 Tempeh, 4 Lichfield, 5 Reiki, 6 Boom Town, 7 Araucaria, 8 Foxx, 13 The Night Of, 15 Decimetre, 17 Clockwise, 18 Galtieri, 21 Mad cow, 23 Siena, 25 Idyll, 26 Imam.

QUOTE DOWN
"I've decided to pick my moment to retire very carefully – in about two hundred years' time"

WORD LADDER
One possible answer is: Vase, Vast, Vest, West, Wept, Kept, Kepi

ANAGRAMS
English, Spanish, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physical education

WORD SLIDE
Occur, other, paced, pacer, papal, paper, proud, scold, scour, scout, stoat, stout, tacet, taped, taper, troll, trout

NINER INSULATED

SHAPES 48

MIRROR IMAGE B

NETS C

SUMTHING
4x6=24, 5x3=15, 9+9=18

NUMBER JIG
3228

SUMMIT UP
A 104 B 77

REASONING
1 Lupin one grey, tulip two blue, iris three white, rose four red.
2 Toni witch, Charlie king, Jack dame, Alex princess.

EVENS
3571
6982
2163
1794

DICE GAME
One and four

LOST FOR WORDS
Latch, Mustard, Shrimp

CONCENTRATION
1: 21, 2: 2, 3: 5 of clubs

30-SECOND BRAIN TEASER
Beginner 45, Intermediate 167, Advanced 125.

WORDSEARCH

Q	Q	U	J	C	U	S	G	F	U	S	S	Y	J	R	L	Y	L	D
B	D	A	Y	D	R	E	A	M	Y	N	D	O	S	T	G	A	F	D
J	U	L	P	K	F	Y	Q	S	V	O	R	M	A	M	D	F	Z	W
U	O	C	M	Z	E	O	M	V	N	W	X	Q	V	H	A	P	P	Y
Y	C	U	M	Z	U	U	R	R	P	O	P	X	U	H	K	L	D	C
U	U	A	E	N	L	S	V	G	B	L	I	K	F	I	O	E	L	M
T	L	E	S	C	T	L	H	R	E	C	P	S	T	W	E	B	K	S
C	N	Q	S	K	E	S	E	O	I	T	M	L	Y	R	M	T	G	T
S	U	H	Y	C	C	T	Q	J	A	G	F	I	G	N	X	E	M	T
M	N	G	Q	M	T	F	F	D	B	J	V	U	N	O	C	B	A	E
Z	U	L	O	A	G	R	U	M	P	Y	Z	S	L	S	R	K	C	N
Z	M	D	H	S	T	R	O	N	G	J	M	I	G	E	V	N	M	F
X	T	C	D	O	W	O	B	G	N	O	B	L	Z	Y	U	V	S	Q
K	N	I	A	L	U	P	P	I	T	Y	O	L	T	O	R	B	C	O
S	S	A	G	M	E	Y	E	K	M	J	N	Y	B	I	D	D	B	P
C	O	M	A	S	Z	J	H	Z	E	G	X	R	Y	N	C	S	R	T
H	Z	Y	Q	Z	I	U	H	Q	O	R	B	U	M	P	P	K	Y	I
K	K	Y	I	Q	U	J	E	L	L	Y	L	S	B	S	I	O	L	S
Q	V	D	C	T	E	G	G	N	P	A	D	H	C	V	J	C	N	E

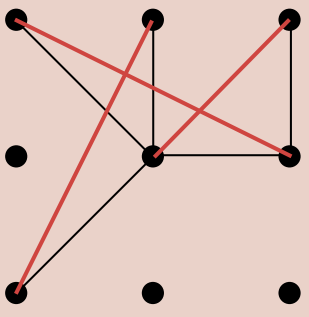
ARROWWORD

	H		P		M		C		O		F		H			K	
	A	O	R	T	A		A	P	P	A	L		I	C	E	N	I
	R		E		N	I	L		T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	R
O	D	D	S	O	N		I	N	S	T	E	P		L	E	E	K
	C	O	S		A		C			F		A	D	D			
T	O	N	G	A		C	O	Y	P	U		C	R	E	T	A	N
	V		A	R	I	A		A	L	L	T	H	E	S	A	M	E
S	E	I	N	E		M	E	M	O		R	E	G	A	L	E	S
	R		G	A	S	P		S	T	A	Y		S	C	E	N	T

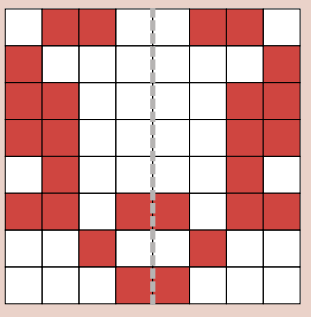
LOGIC

Person	Activity	Time	Price
Liam	Football	3 pm	£3.00
Christina	Rock climbing	1 pm	£5.00
Ruby	Rugby	4 pm	£6.00
Nick	Tennis	10 am	£2.50
Ethan	Judo	11 am	£8.75

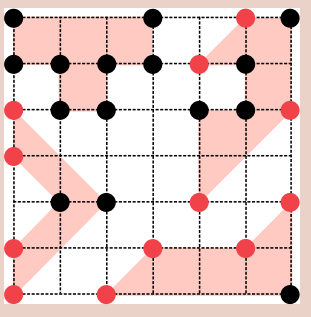
TRIANGLE



SYMMETRY



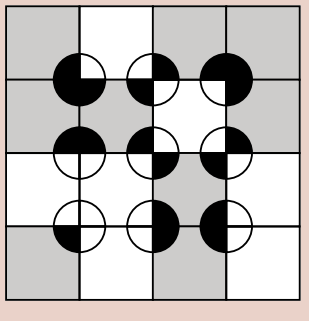
DANGO



SUDOKU EASY

7	9	1	2	6	8	5	4	3
2	5	4	7	3	9	1	8	6
3	6	8	1	4	5	9	2	7
9	4	7	5	2	6	8	3	1
6	1	3	9	8	7	2	5	4
8	2	5	3	1	4	7	6	9
4	7	6	8	5	1	3	9	2
5	3	9	6	7	2	4	1	8
1	8	2	4	9	3	6	7	5

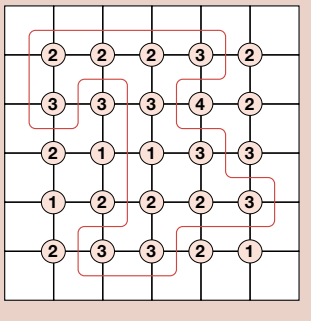
SEKI



CELLS

		6				
		2	4			
		4				2
4	2		8			
	3					
		3	4			
		3		4		

LOOP



SUDOKU HARD

8	9	4	1	6	5	2	7	3
6	1	7	3	2	9	5	4	8
2	3	5	4	8	7	1	9	6
5	8	9	6	7	4	3	1	2
3	4	2	8	9	1	7	6	5
1	7	6	2	5	3	9	8	4
4	5	3	9	1	8	6	2	7
7	2	1	5	4	6	8	3	9
9	6	8	7	3	2	4	5	1

DOUBLE JIGWORD A

O	■	D	■	I	■	F	■	N
F	R	O	W	N	■	E	M	U
F	■	O	■	F	■	L	■	M
S	I	R	■	L	I	T	H	E
P	■	■	■	U	■	■	■	R
R	H	I	N	E	■	L	E	I
I	■	O	■	N	■	O	■	C
N	U	T	■	Z	E	B	R	A
G	■	A	■	A	■	E	■	L

DOUBLE JIGWORD B

I	■	P	■	■	■	L	■	T
C	H	I	N	■	L	A	M	E
E	■	T	■	A	■	V	■	N
D	A	S	H	B	O	A	R	D
■	■	■	■	B	■	■	■	■
E	X	T	R	E	M	I	S	T
A	■	A	■	Y	■	R	■	A
T	E	X	T	■	P	O	M	P
S	■	I	■	■	■	N	■	E

BATTLESHIPS